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Closer eye kept on police

Officer investigations. Increased awareness of SIU part of the reason there are more probes, director says

Ontario's police watchdog launched a record number of investigations last year into everything from firearm deaths to sexual-assault complaints.

Created in 1990 to probe police-civilian incidents involving death or serious injury, the Special Investigations Unit, which oversees 28,000 officers across the province, has become increasingly active in recent years, new data shows.

Compiled by the SIU, the statistics demonstrate that charges have been laid in a total of 126 cases — fewer than three per cent of all investigations.

But the probes are becoming much more frequent. After sinking to a low of 136 in 2004, the number of investigations climbed to 382 in 2012, an increase of 180 per cent.

"The number of investigations (has) increased significantly over the SIU's 22 years of existence," SIU director Ian Scott said. "I would attribute this to a better understanding within the police community of the role of the SIU combined with an increased number of contacts from the media, lawyers and complainants."

The statistics were released amid criticism of SIU operations from the Toronto Police Association and the Ottawa Police Association. In the past week, the heads of both police unions have called for an independent inquiry into the way the SIU conducts its investigations.

The increase in investigations has been particularly pronounced in the area of sexual-assault complaints, which have risen fairly steadily in recent years, from 12 in 2004 to 49 in 2012.

This could be due to an increased awareness of the SIU, and the fact many complaints in this category are "historical," with members of the public reporting incidents years after they are alleged to have occurred, Scott said.

There has also been a substantial jump in investigations into serious injuries allegedly inflicted on individuals in police custody, which hit a high of 229 last year.

Scott said this may be the result of more police services using the SIU's definition of serious injuries, which include "those that are likely to interfere with the health or comfort of the victim."

"The bar is a bit lower than the definition they may have used beforehand," Scott said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

NET WORK CRASH

Toronto Maple Leafs centre Mikhail Grabovski is hauled down by Montreal Canadiens defenceman Alexei Emelin as he tries to shoot on goaltender Carey Price during the second period in Toronto on Wednesday. Grabovski did not score on the penalty shot that was awarded on the play, and the Leafs went on to lose 5-2. For the full story, see page 32. FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Solicit city

The mayor is still asking registered lobbyists to donate to his football foundation — a practice that nearly forced him out of office PAGE 3

We are NOT stopping to ask for directions

A middle-aged married couple is going to slingshot around Mars for 501 days on a privately built spaceship PAGE 17

Chubby checkup

This country's carrying a spare (Canadian) tire around the middle: Obesity rates are higher than ever, researchers say PAGE 9

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City councillors' records

Info legislation change could mark milestone

Ontario's information and privacy commissioner has asked the province to change legislation so the public can gain access to city councillors' records.

If the province agrees, it would mark a milestone for government transparency in Canada.

With the exception of some provincial ministers, elected officials in this country are typically not covered by access to information laws.

Transparency activists are hopeful this latest development could lead to sweeping changes across the country.

On Wednesday, commissioner Ann Cavoukian signed letters to the ministers of government services and municipal affairs and housing, requesting the government look at amending the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act so that councillors would be covered. At present, councillors aren't considered city employees, so they are not subject to freedom-of-information legislation — unlike the mayor and city bureaucrats.

John Friesen, a spokesperson with the Government Services ministry, says any recommendation from the commissioner will be taken seriously.

"If the IPC was to recommend an amendment to (the act) we would certainly work with her office ... and with stakeholders," Friesen said. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

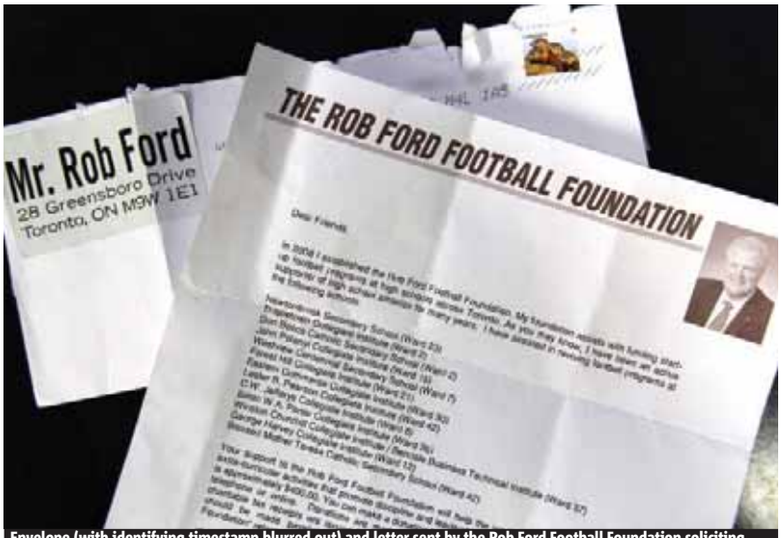
Quoted

"I am fully committed to working with the ministers and key stakeholders to bring this to fruition."

Commissioner Ann Cavoukian

Has Mayor Ford learned nothing?

Football foundation.
Lobbyists come forward with hand-signed letters from Ford asking for donations within the past two months



Envelope (with identifying timestamp blurred out) and letter sent by the Rob Ford Football Foundation soliciting donations for the football program. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Mayor Rob Ford is still asking registered lobbyists to donate to his football foundation — a practice that violates the city's code of conduct and led to the court case that nearly forced him out of office.

Two lobbyists showed Torstar News Service fundraising letters Ford sent them within the past two months on behalf of the foundation. Ford hand-signed both letters.

Andy Manahan, executive director of the Residential and Civil Construction Alliance of Ontario, said he received a letter on Jan. 28 — only three days after Ford won his appeal in the conflict-of-interest saga that began with his decision to solicit donations from lobbyists in 2009. Manahan first registered as a lobbyist in 2008. He said he is currently lobbying on an entirely uncontroversial issue, improving the procurement process, and that he finds this Ford "indiscretion" less serious than others he believes Ford has committed.

But he added: "You never know what a mayor's office could do to put a monkey wrench into your dealings with the city.

"I don't think it's appropriate to take those sort of lists and send out letters to people who have dealings with the city," Manahan said. "Again, there could be repercussions. There's potential."

Ford left Wednesday morning for a vacation in Florida, and his spokesperson did not respond to requests for comment.

Coun. Doug Ford said he personally does not think it matters whether the recipient of a letter is a registered lobbyist or not, since many well-meaning companies are registered lobbyists. His brother sends "mass mailers," he said, and does not target lobbyists specifically.

The Rob Ford Football Foundation helps high schools start football teams by paying for the expensive equipment. In Rob Ford's letters, which began "Dear Friends," he listed 13 schools he has assisted, then said, "Your support to the Rob Ford Football Foundation will help the youth of Toronto participate in extra-curricular activities that promote discipline and leadership."

After he explained how to donate, he concluded, "I greatly appreciate your consideration with respect to this worthy cause. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your generous support. Yours truly, Rob Ford."

Ford said in court in September that he exchanges business cards with almost everyone he meets and later sends fundraising letters to people whose cards he has received. Manahan said he has not met with Ford but has met with a member of his staff.

The second registered lobbyist asked not to be named for fear of alienating the Ford administration. He said, "I think it's kind of suspicious. The only interactions I've had with him were on city business or as a lobbyist registrant." He added: "It goes back to: are you allowed to use names and contact information from business dealings to raise funds? Is that permitted? It sure seems strange."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Non-lobbyist

Brian Ashton, president of the Canadian National Exhibition Association, also received a fundraising letter from Ford, on Jan. 10. As mayor, Ford is automatically a member of the association board; if Ashton seeks re-election, Ford could vote against him.

Mayor Rob Ford
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Brampton

Step-grandson investigated for murder

Peel's homicide bureau is investigating a case involving an 83-year-old Brampton man who died after allegedly being assaulted by his step-grandson.

Police say the victim, Beres Grayson, was assaulted on Valentine's Day by a man he lived with at a house on Earth Star Trail in Brampton. As paramedics rushed Grayson to hospital in critical condition, police arrested Nathaniel Hunter, 32, from the house.

The man spent almost two weeks in critical care on life support before succumbing to his injuries Wednesday. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Report. Minimum wage key to reducing poverty

Sabrina Garrido, who is single, and her 7-year-old, Gabriella, subsist on Ontario Works and child-benefit money. LUCAS OLENIUK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

At 18, Sabrina Garrido was already a single mom, struggling to make ends meet with her new baby girl, Gabriella.

Seven years later, it's still tough to live on the $1,000 to $1,100 they gather each month, if they're lucky. And that includes funds from Ontario Works and child benefits.

"It's almost impossible to make a living with what they give you," said Garrido. "With a child, it's just that much harder."

Gabriella is one of 383,000 Ontario kids living in poverty. In 2008, the province pledged to reduce their numbers by 25 per cent by the end of 2013.

But a new report says the Liberal government has "derailed" reduction efforts as it focuses on trimming the deficit. It warns that failure to raise the minimum wage and improve "dismal" social-assistance rates will imperil the commitment to help kids like Gabriella.

"What's needed is leadership," said the report's author, Anita Khanna. "The 2013 budget is a good place where they can get back on track." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Child-poverty report card

- In 1989, 9.9% of Ontario kids lived in poverty. The rate in 2010 was 14.2%, or 383,000 kids.
- One in 10 Ontario children in 2010 lived in homes that couldn't afford things like dental care, daily produce and clothes for interviews.
- 35.6% of kids in a home with a single mom lived in poverty in 2010.

Hindle sentenced to life for killing girlfriend

Second-degree murder. Lisa Lebitka was a mother of three

Paul Hindle

Paige Donaldson is still trying to forget the man who brutally murdered her mother.

The 12-year-old attended Ontario Superior Court on Wednesday to witness the sentencing of Paul Hindle, who killed Lisa Lebitka days after Christmas 2011 and tried to cover it up.

Justice John McMahon sentenced Hindle, who pleaded guilty to second-degree murder for killing his girlfriend, to life in prison without parole eligibility for 14 years.

"I'm trying to get him out of my mind," Paige said outside court. "I still don't believe it."

Paige, Lebitka's oldest child, still expects her mother home, and must remind herself she's gone. She studies photos to keep her memory alive.

"I just have to keep living and not thinking about that stuff," she said

Hindle, 48, strangled Lebitka, 45, with his hands and began dragging her body downstairs. He heard breathing, so he stopped and plugged her nose.

Court was told he thought of calling for help but realized he would be in "big trouble" and had to finish the job.

Hindle smothered her with a pillow, dragged her to their bedroom and shoved socks down her throat to ensure her death. Lebitka was still alive when he jammed the socks in, court was told.

"Lisa Lebitka did not die a quick and painless death," said McMahon.

Hindle, a corporate headhunter, knew Lebitka from their teens. He moved into her home, with her three young children, in 2010 after her marriage collapsed.

Hindle, who has declared bankruptcy three times and has a history of fraud charges, began weaving a web of lies that unravelled. In debt for $30,000, he'd promised Lebitka that he had a massive cheque coming from Revenue Canada; they'd all take a trip.

When Lebitka asked to cash the cheque on Dec. 30, 2011, days before their trip, Hindle snapped and murdered her, court was told. There was no cheque.

Hindle reported her missing on New Year's Day, not knowing police would search her home first. Officers found her decomposed body under her child's bed. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Quoted

"Violence is in my life now."

Paige, 12, daughter of Lisa Lebitka

Lisa Lebitka FACEBOOK.COM

York region police officer Dameian Muirhead TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Cop 'professional' in face of racial taunts

A black York Region officer shook his head in disgust and said nothing when someone in a mob of drunken partygoers shouted he would like to see him lynched, a police disciplinary hearing has heard.

Const. Jeffrey Lasseter testified on Wednesday that he and his partner, Const. Dameian Muirhead, "looked at each other" when the insult was hurled at Muirhead. "I remember him shaking his head and we left the property."

The officers were called to investigate an assault at a party in May 2011 on an Aurora farm.

Muirhead, 33, faces three misconduct charges, including one for not investigating the racial taunts made against him. He has yet to testify.

The hearing adjourned Wednesday with no return date in sight, after hearing two days of prosecution witnesses.

Lasseter testified that Muirhead made an effort to de-escalate tensions until backup officers arrived.

He had glowing praise for Muirhead's professionalism, including his work on the day in question.

"(He's) very professional on duty, caring.... He's low-key. Quiet. I like Dameian a lot." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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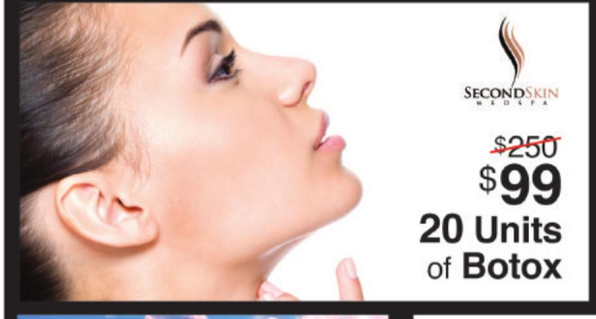

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Top Mt. Sinai doctor quits amid controversy

ORNGE's Chris Mazza speaks at Queens Park last July. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

Kickbacks. Dubious dealings with ORNGE founder leave taxpayers on the hook

Mount Sinai's top doctor has quit amid revelations his Toronto hospital paid ORNGE founder Chris Mazza $248,000 in public money — with no proof Mazza did some of the work for which he was paid.

"We regret this unfortunate situation," Mount Sinai president Joseph Mapa said in a statement on Wednesday. He sent an internal note to hospital colleagues saying it was with a "heavy heart" he accepted Dr. Tom Stewart's resignation as physician-in-chief and director of the medical/surgical intensive care unit.

Stewart will continue his clinical practice at Mount Sinai.

The hospital has also announced it will now disclose publicly all third-party contracts to increase transparency.

Statement

"Dr. Stewart acknowledged that this was an error in judgment."

A Mount Sinai hospital statement

ORNGE paid Mount Sinai's Stewart roughly $75,000 annually over seven years to advise Mazza and ORNGE on medical issues — work that the air ambulance firm's new managers said they could not confirm was done because the relationship was primarily between Mazza and Stewart.

Over a similar time period, Mount Sinai paid Mazza $248,000. Both were already well paid by their own agencies: Mazza earned $1.9 million in his last year at ORNGE and Mount Sinai paid Stewart $607,000 in salary and benefits in 2011. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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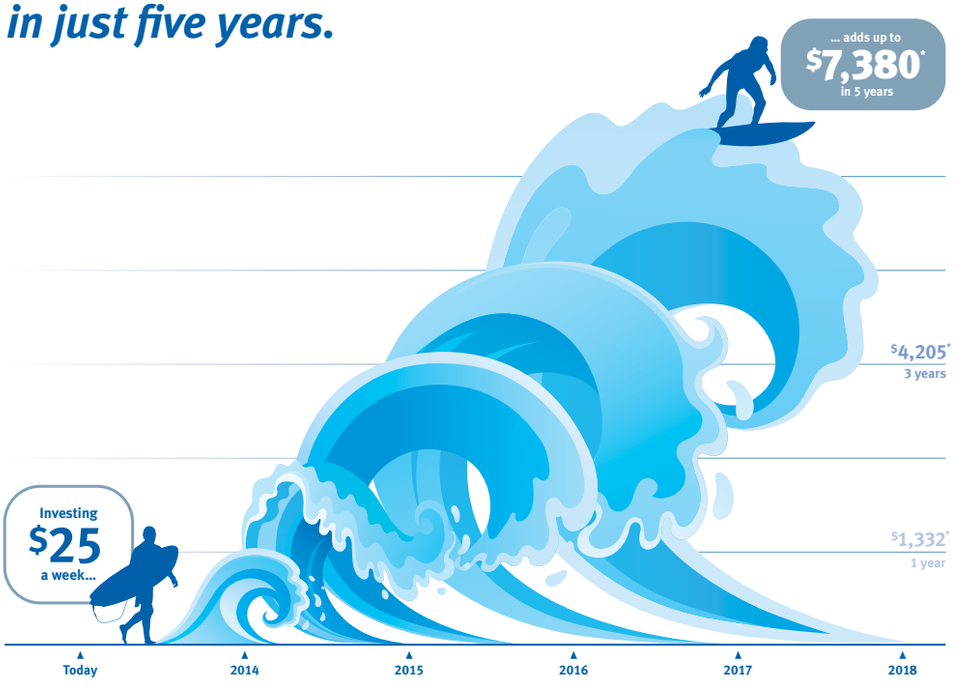

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Are those winter tires?

Stacey, who didn't wish to give her last name, struggled to get her daughter Gabrielle's stroller along the sidewalk on Lawrence Avenue, just east of Bathurst Street, on Wednesday morning. Sidewalks were a mess after 10 centimetres of snow fell during the night, according to Environment Canada. BERNARD WEIL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Driving. Left turns and intense conversation don't mix: New study

Ever feel like your head's going to explode when you're trying to turn left at a hectic intersection and tell the boss, via that Bluetooth device looped over your ear, that it's not your fault sales have tanked?

Your brain may be trying to tell you something while you're driving. It appears that turning left at a busy intersection and talking on a hands-free cellphone is a recipe for disaster.

The human brain has a hard time dealing with stressful decision-making, like in a busy left-turn situation, at the same time as it is processing a distracting conversation. For drivers talking on those hands-free devices "that could be the most dangerous thing they ever do on the road," said Dr. Tom Schweizer, a neuroscientist at St. Michael's Hospital and lead researcher in a just-published study on distracted driving.

Statistics indicate that the most serious traffic accidents occur when drivers are turning left at busy intersections, he said.

And the danger isn't limited to talking on a hands-free cellphone — it could just as easily be from a heated in-car conversation with a real person, or even from a radio talk show that has passionately engaged a driver, said Schweizer.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Corruption case. Former spy-agency watchdog wanted in fraud probe

The man once entrusted to keep an eye on Canada's spy agency is now wanted by police and extradition procedures are underway in the hope of bringing him back to face criminal charges in this country.

An arrest warrant is out for Arthur Porter, the former head of the CSIS watchdog agency, for alleged fraud in one of the country's most expensive infrastructure projects.

He is among the five people named in arrest warrants issued Wednesday by Quebec's anti-corruption squad, in the case of the $1.3-billion construction of a Montreal mega-hospital.

The others are: former SNC Lavalin senior executives Pierre Duhaime and Riadh Ben Aissa, Yanai Elbaz and Jeremy Morris, the administrator of a Bahamas-based investment company. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Order of Canada

High honour taken from theatre mogul

Disgraced theatre impresario Garth Drabinsky has been stripped of his Order of Canada appointment and is going to court to fight the decision he says is unfair, considering his imprisonment.

Drabinsky was released to a Toronto halfway house earlier this month.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Recruitment centre

Arrest made in connection to Quebec bombing

A man has been arrested in connection with the bombing of a Canadian Forces recruitment centre in Quebec in 2010, the RCMP said Wednesday. RCMP Cpl. Luc Thibault said four locations that were searched were linked to the Trois-Rivières bombing, which resulted in material damage but no injuries. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Anti-gay activist gets hit with ruling by Canada's top court

Human rights. William Whatcott rapped for two of four pamphlets he distributed

A Saskatchewan anti-gay crusader violated human-rights rules when he distributed some pamphlets denouncing homosexuals, the Supreme Court of Canada has ruled.

In a unanimous 6-0 decision Wednesday, the court found that two of the four flyers distributed by William Whatcott violated Saskatchewan's Human Rights Code. Those flyers referred to gay men as sodomites and pedophiles.

But the court struck down some language in the provincial code, clearing Whatcott of any wrongdoing in connection with two other flyers. Whatcott produced and distributed leaflets in 2000 and 2001 that contained inflammatory statements about gay men.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Supreme Court decision means Saskatchewan anti-gay crusader William Whatcott will have to pay one complainant $2,500 and another $5,000.

MICHAEL REICHEL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sentenced. Fatal crash lands man three years

A man convicted after a crash that killed four high school football players from northern Alberta has been sentenced to three years in prison.

Brenden Holubowich will also be forbidden to drive for three years once he is released. Holubowich, 23, pleaded guilty to dangerous driving causing death and dangerous driving causing bodily harm. Court of Queen's Bench Justice William Tilleman said determining a sentence for Holubowich might have been the most difficult thing he has ever done.

Tilleman's eyes filled with tears as he told court he sympathized with the dead teens' relatives, who had suggested that a three-year sentence would not be enough. He also said he felt for Holubowich's family.

Tilleman said he struggled with his decision and at one point considered a longer period behind bars. But in the end, the judge said, the sentence jointly submitted by the Crown and defence was just and in keeping with similar cases. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Obesity rates at an all-time high

Obesity maps. Study shows regional rates across Canada, some with 'alarming' numbers

Obesity rates are higher than ever, especially in certain parts of the country, say researchers who have mapped the changes to illustrate how Canadians' waistlines have expanded over time.

Overall, at least one-quarter of Canadian adults have a body-mass index (BMI) of 30 or greater — putting them in the obese category — concludes a comprehensive study that comes complete with "obesity maps."

"Our analysis shows that more Canadians are obese than ever before — on average, between one-fourth and one-third of Canadians are obese, depending on the region," said principal author Carolyn Gotay of the School of Population and Public Health at the University of British Columbia.

Gotay said mapping regional rates provides more than a decade of easy-to-use visual snapshots that should help researchers, policy makers and the public identify where investments are especially needed to fight the obesity epidemic.

"It seems to tell us that certain areas are definitely experiencing more heavy people," she said from Vancouver. "In certain areas, the percentage of people who are obese is alarming and does have implications for healthcare costs and quality of life down the road."

Being obese can lead to cardiovascular disease, diabetes and certain cancers, among them breast, prostate, colorectal and pancreatic.

The study, published Wednesday in the Canadian Journal of Public Health, used self-reported BMI data from the Canadian Community Health Survey, which researchers adjusted to get more accurate obesity estimates. Over the 11-year study period, the researchers found the greatest increases occurred between 2000 and 2007.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

At least a quarter of adults are obese, the study shows. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Hefty cost

$4.6B

The effects of obesity are indeed expensive: In 2008, they were estimated to cost the Canadian economy $4.6 billion, up about 20 per cent from 2000.

Weigh-in

- **Highs.** The Atlantic provinces, Nunavut and the Northwest Territories had the highest obesity rates between 2000 and 2011, with more than 30 per cent of the population estimated to be obese.
- **Lows.** British Columbia had the lowest overall rates, but obesity still increased from less than 20 per cent to almost 25 per cent in that province. In Quebec, the rate stayed at about 24 per cent.

Expert opinion

Results align with health campaigns

Obesity expert Dr. Mark Tremblay, who was not involved in the study, said the maps give "a nice pictorial summary" of current obesity rates region by region.

"You see across time that the colours get darker or more ominous, showing very effectively visually the transition that's occurred in a rather short period of time," he said Wednesday from Ottawa.

The two territories and the Atlantic provinces have had long-standing problems with obesity among their populations, said Tremblay, director of Healthy Active Living and Obesity Research at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario.

"In the (Atlantic provinces), they also tend to be less active and less fit. We don't see that same pattern for the North," he said. "Those trends have been there for a while, so I guess what is concerning is that they're not being resolved."

In the 2011 Active Healthy Kids Canada Report Card, which Tremblay helped pen, the provinces and territories were given an overall C-minus grade for investment in public-health promotion.

B.C. and Quebec led the pack in per-capita investment. Ontario was No. 3, though at a much lower level than the other two, and the fall-off in dollars spent on health promotion continued from there.

While Tremblay is not saying there is a cause and effect between more money spent on promoting a healthy lifestyle and lower obesity rates, "it's interesting that they align."

Principal author Carolyn Gotay hopes the study will encourage regions to look at their individual rates and come up with programs that target the factors that contribute to obesity within their own populations.

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Pig parts behind Oscar's power?

The substance found in the Blade Runner's bedroom after the shooting death of his girlfriend has been named.

Oscar Pistorius' representatives say it was Testis compositum — a herbal remedy for "muscle recovery."

A product called Testis compositum is also marketed as a sexual enhancer, good for lack of stamina.

Some online retailers advertise oral and injectable forms as testosterone boosters and say it can aid sexual performance.

Tablets sold in the U.S. are said to contain 23 ingredients, including pig testicles, pig heart, pig embryo and pig adrenal gland, cortisone, ginseng and other botanicals.

Paralympic star Pistorius was charged with premeditated murder in the Feb. 14 shooting death of girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp. He says he shot her by accident.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Special on Pistorius

Networks link up for documentary

The desire to produce a quick documentary on Oscar Pistorius has led to a partnership between two TV networks. The Investigation Discovery Network on Sunday will premiere Beauty & The Blade Runner, about the South African athlete and the shooting death of girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp.

ID is making the special with NBC News and that company's Peacock Productions. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Swiss set to rethink laws after man's gun rampage

U.S.-style shock. Longtime employee dies after killing two with pistol at company in a small town

Fears about U.S.-style mass gun killings gripped Switzerland on Wednesday after a longtime employee opened fire at a wood-processing company.

The shooting left three people dead, including the assailant, in the country's second multiple-fatality shooting in two months.

And it happened as the Swiss parliament prepares to consider tightening some aspects of the country's famously lax gun legislation.

The country has a long-standing tradition for men to keep their military rifles after completing compulsory military service.

This partly accounts for the high rate of gun ownership in the country, where some 2.3 million firearms are owned by a population of about eight million.

A referendum to tighten the laws was defeated at the ballot box in 2011.

On Wednesday, the 42-year-old Swiss male arrived at the premises of the company Kronospan, in the small town of Menznau. He drew a pistol and started firing, police said.

Seven people were wounded, six of them seriously.

Officials didn't immediately have further details on the weapon or how the assailant acquired it. They also did not know how the assailant was killed.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Horror on New Zealand beach. Police fire at giant shark, but swimmer dies

Police fired gunshots at a monster shark on Wednesday in a desperate attempt to save a swimmer.

The four-metre shark "rolled over and disappeared," said police inspector Shawn Rutene. But the victim, award-winning television and short-film director Adam Strange, 46, didn't survive.

Pio Mose, who was fishing at the popular Muriwai Beach near Auckland, New Zealand, said he saw the swimmer struggle against the huge shark.

He yelled at the man to swim to the rocks, but it was too late.

"All of a sudden there was blood everywhere," Mose said. "I was shaking, scared, panicked."

Rutene said police went out in inflatable lifesaving boats and shot at the shark.

Government shark expert Clinton Duffy said New Zealand is a hotspot for great white sharks.

But other potentially lethal species also inhabit the waters, he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Amid a frenzy of spray, police in an inflatable life raft fire shots at a shark as it attacks a swimmer near Auckland, New Zealand. Police said the victim was found dead in the water. ROSS LAND/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Gun-control testimony revisits Sandy Hook

Neil Heslin, the father of a six-year-old boy who was slain in the Sandy Hook massacre in Newtown, Conn., on Dec. 14, holds a picture of himself with his son Jesse and wipes his eye while testifying on Capitol Hill in Washington on Wednesday before the Senate Judiciary Committee on the Assault Weapons Ban of 2013.

SUSAN WALSH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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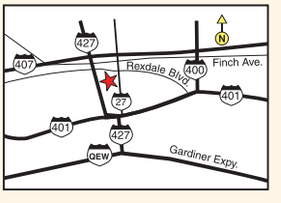

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A win for Kelly could move gun control forward

Clear path to Congress. Kelly would replace disgraced former U.S. Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr.

Democratic nominee Robin Kelly is set to take a seat in Congress.
CHARLES REX ARBOGAST/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

An outspoken gun-control supporter is poised to take a seat in the U.S. Congress, and her win is seen as a victory as well for the organization founded by New York City's billionaire mayor to counter the country's powerful pro-gun lobby.

Democratic nominee Robin Kelly directly challenged the National Rifle Association in her victory speech Tuesday night. Her Chicago-area district is overwhelmingly Democratic, and she is expected to sail through the April 9 general election and head to Washington. The gun issue has returned to the national spotlight after 20 young children and six adults were killed in a school shooting in December by a man using his mother's legally purchased high-powered rifle.

Vice-President Joe Biden, who has led White House efforts on gun safety, said Wednesday that voters in Kelly's win "sent a clear, unequivocal signal" to the NRA and politicians nationwide. "The message is there will be a moral price as well as a political price for inaction."

Biden met with New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg later Wednesday at the White House. After the meeting, Bloomberg said Kelly's win is a sign of things to come for gun-control legislation.

Kelly, who would replace disgraced former U.S. Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr., gained huge momentum as Bloomberg's political action committee poured $2 million into anti-gun television ads in her favour. Kelly promised in her victory speech to fight "until gun violence is no longer a nightly feature on the evening news" and directly addressed the NRA, saying "their days of holding our country hostage are coming to an end."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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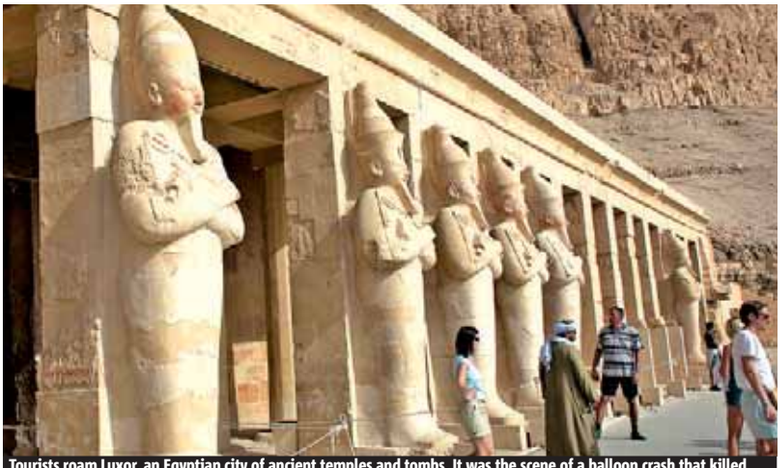
Luxor reeling after balloon crash kills 19

The agony of Luxor. 'Morsi should have taken a plane and come here,' says the angry owner of five-star hotel



Tourists roam Luxor, an Egyptian city of ancient temples and tombs. It was the scene of a balloon crash that killed 19 tourists and residents are seething over the silence of Egypt's president. NASSER NASSER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Egyptian city of Luxor was seething with anger Wednesday in the aftermath of the fiery crash of a sightseeing balloon that killed 19 tourists.

Luxor is utterly dependent on foreign visitors to survive and residents assailed the country's Islamist president for his silence over the crash.

Mohammed Morsi has yet to publicly speak about the tragedy — and some in Luxor took that as indifference to the vital tourism trade.

"Morsi should have taken a plane and come here," said Salah Zaky, one of the owners of the five-star Steigenberger Hotel in Luxor, 510 kilometres south of Cairo.

"The whole world is watching and he is asleep. It's as if there is no government."

Hours after the crash, Morsi spoke live on TV at a meeting with political leaders — but only about upcoming parliamentary elections.

Nine of those who died in Tuesday's crash were in a group from Hong Kong who stayed at the Steigenberger.

The husband of one of the victims had chosen not to go on the balloon ride and watched from the ground as it burst into flame and plummeted to the earth, with his wife, daughter, sister and brother-in-law on board. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

He's baaack. Reviled ex-boss of BP testifies in video at oil spill trial

Tony Hayward has been accused of telling BP employees to downplay the oil spill. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

He was once the object of ridicule and the focus of outrage after the 2010 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

On Wednesday, former BP chief executive Tony Hayward made a cameo appearance in a trial to decide how much blame the company must shoulder for the disaster.

Hayward didn't attend in person. Instead, he showed up just briefly on a videotape in what may be his only appearance in the courtroom.

Hayward, who famously said "I'd like my life back" at the height of the spill, isn't expected to take the witness stand in the high-stakes trial.

Hayward did testify in person before Congress and gave a videotaped deposition for this trial, but his role may be limited here by his lack of direct knowledge of the drilling operations on the Deepwater Horizon.

Still, attorneys for the U.S. government and Gulf Coast residents and businesses showed a 20-minute snippet of his deposition, projecting the video on a large white screen in the courtroom.

The attorneys have said the London-based company bears most of the blame for the spill.

And they accused BP of putting profits ahead of safety by cutting corners on a project that was over budget and behind schedule.

"I believe that the role of leaders is very important in shaping the culture of an organization," Hayward said in the videotape.

He also said cost-cutting measures in the years before the 2010 spill did not have an effect on drilling operations. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Top U.S. official quits as budget cuts set illegal immigrants free

The senior U.S. Homeland Security Department official in charge of arresting and deporting illegal immigrants announced his resignation Wednesday.

The shocking departure came the same day the agency said hundreds of people facing deportation had been released from immigration jails due to looming budget cuts.

Gary Mead, executive associate director over enforcement and removal operations at Immigrations and Customs Enforcement, disclosed his departure in an email.

The government said he had told his bosses weeks ago he planned to retire.

President Barack Obama's spokesperson, Jay Carney, said the released immigrants were "low-risk, non-criminal detainees."

Carney said the decision to release what he described as "a few hundred" of the 30,000 illegal immigrants in federal detention was made by "career officials" at the immigration agency. He said the immigrants released were still subject to deportation.

Quoted

"I don't think we can maintain the same level of security at all places around the country."

Janet Napolitano, Homeland Security Secretary, talking about the budget cuts.

"All of these individuals remain in removal proceedings," Carney said.

"Priority for detention remains on serious criminal offenders and other individuals who pose a significant threat to public safety."

Republicans in Congress criticized the decision.

ICE is required by Congress to maintain 34,000 immigration jail beds. As of last week, the agency held an average daily population of 30,733 in its jails. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Unveiled by Obama

Statue honours icon Rosa Parks

U.S. President Barack Obama unveiled a statue of civil rights icon Rosa Parks Wednesday.

Parks becomes the first black woman to be honoured with a full-length statue in the Capitol's Statuary Hall.

Parks is famous for her 1955 refusal to give up her seat on a city bus in Alabama to a white man.

The statue portrays Parks clutching her trademark purse. She died in 2005. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A 'turning point'

Iran wins broad nuclear gains

World powers offered broader concessions than ever to Iran in attempts Wednesday to keep alive diplomatic channels that seek to rein in its nuclear program.

Saeed Jalili, Iran's top official at talks in Kazakhstan, said it represents a "turning point."

The proposal allows Iran to keep a limited amount of enriched uranium and stops short of demanding the shutdown of an underground nuclear facility. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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How private is the data on your phone?

Modern wiretap. Civil Liberties Union details astonishing amount of personal data police extracted from one woman's smartphone

Your locations, even the deleted ones. Your chats. Your web-browsing history. Your data files. And thousands more personal details buried on your mobile phone.

The American Civil Liberties Union has published details from a Michigan search warrant of all of the information police were able to extract from one woman's iPhone seized from her bedroom last September.

"Before the age of smartphones, it was impossible for police to gather this much private information about a person's communications, historical movements and private life during an arrest," wrote ACLU principal technologist Chris Soghoian.

"Our pockets and bags simply aren't big enough to carry paper records revealing that much data. Today, five-year-old emails are just a few clicks away."

The findings have strong resonance in Ontario, where the Court of Appeal on Feb. 20 declared police can search any cellphone if it is not password-protected.

Police can still search a cellphone that is password-protected, but they need a search warrant, the court said.

In the U.S. case, police needed and won a search warrant, but American courts remain divided about whether it is necessary, Soghoian said.

The data stripped from the iPhone was done by Cellebrite, a company devoted to decoding and extracting information from mobile phones. They sell a variety of portable data mining machines.

"The delete button on the phone should really be called the 'hide' button, because the data is still there, you just can't see it," said Rod McKemmish, head of the IT forensics practice at corporate advisory firm PPB Advisory, after recovering files that let to the resignation of the Australian parliamentary speaker, Peter Slipper.

"In the forensic process we can bring it all back."

Cellebrite is developing a "device wipe" that can scrub the memory of mobile phones. Device wipe is also an "enhanced" feature of Microsoft Exchange Server 2007 and available on BlackBerry phones. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

A Michigan search warrant details all of the information police were able to extract from one woman's iPhone seized from her bedroom last September.
PETER MACDIARMID/GETTY IMAGES

'Monica's' iPhone

The state-sanctioned hack of the Michigan phone revealed "Monica's" 104 call logs, eight passwords, 422 SMS messages, six wireless networks and 10,149 data files of audio, pictures, text and videos, 378 of them deleted.

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Ted Wieclawek, Ontario Fire Marshal and Chair, Fire Marshal's Public Fire Safety Council

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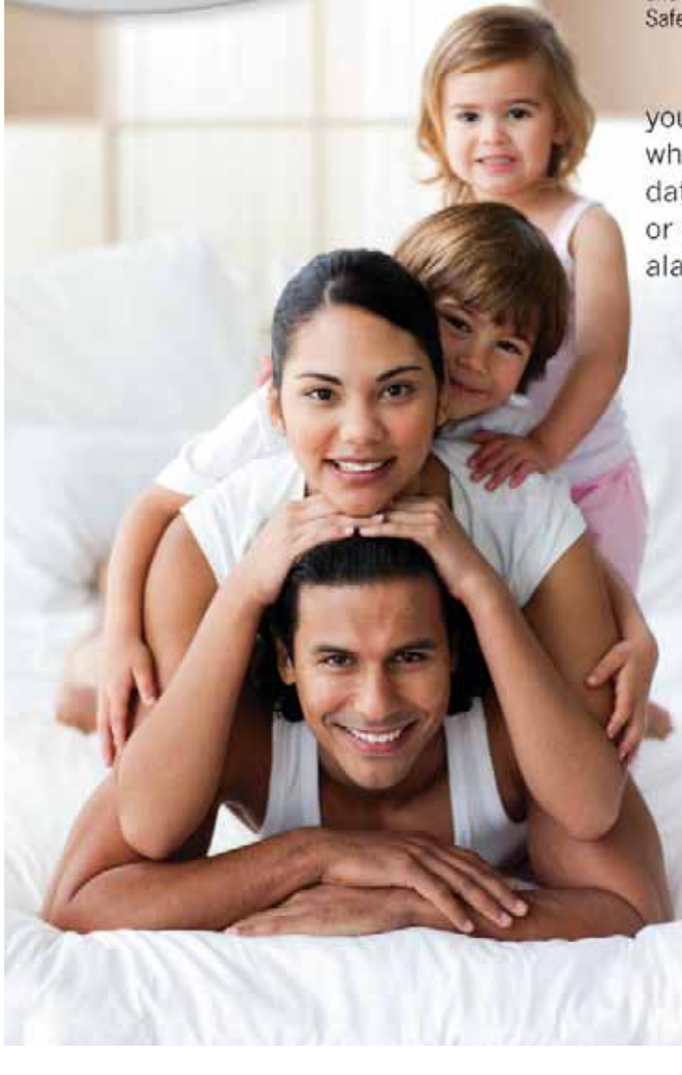

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‘Breathable’ nail polish finds unexpected niche

Surprise solution. Product developed as healthier alternative to traditional enamel is a hit with Muslim women

A manicure in progress at an Inglot shop in Warsaw, Poland. Since an Islamic scholar wrote that, in his view, Inglot’s O2M nail polish complied with Muslim law, the product has become popular with Muslim women. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

For Zaida Saleh, like for many observant Muslim women, manicures have long posed a religious problem.

With prayers five times a day, and a pre-prayer ritual that requires washing the hands and arms, traditional fingernail polish has been mostly off limits because it prevents water from making contact with the nails. A new “breathable” nail polish by a Polish company, Inglot, is changing that.

The company and some Muslims say the polish is the first of its kind because it lets air and moisture pass through to the nail. A craze has built up around it with Muslim women in recent months after an Islamic scholar in the United States tested its permeability and published an article saying that, in his view, it complies with Muslim law.

“It’s huge,” said Saleh, a 35-year-old who hadn’t polished her nails in many years but immediately went out and bought the product in five colours, including a bright pink, a burgundy and a mauve. “I am excited. I feel more feminine — and I just love it.”

The news of Inglot’s breathable polish has spread quickly from woman to woman and over the Internet.

The nail polish now stands as one of the final life achievements of Wojciech Inglot, a Polish chemist and entrepreneur who developed it to create what he billed as a healthier alternative to traditional nail enamels, which block the passage of moisture and oxygen to the nail.

Though the Muslim holy book, the Qur’an, does not specifically address the issue of nail polish, some Islamic scholars have said that water must touch the surface of the nail for the washing ritual to be done correctly. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EU trade talks

Canada’s banking system negotiable, document shows

A leaked draft of part of the Canada-Europe trade talks shows Canada’s vaunted banking system is on the negotiating table. The Canadian Press has obtained the Feb. 1 version of the services chapter of the Canada-Europe trade deal that Europe has circulated to its member states.

It shows Canada is struggling to maintain the traditional stringent standards it imposes to ensure financial stability and protect financial services in Canada from foreign control. The documents also show Canada is resisting European Union attempts to weaken oversight of financial institutions — leading to a heavily contested text that is one more obstacle to completing an agreement soon. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR
97.75¢
(+0.32¢)

TSX
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OIL
$92.76 US (+13¢)

GOLD
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Natural gas: $3.41 US (-5¢)
Dow Jones: 14,075.37 (+175.24)

Till space us do part: Tycoon plans to send married couple to Mars

It is a road trip that could test the best of marriages: Mars.

A tycoon announced plans Wednesday to send a middle-aged couple on a privately built spaceship to slingshot around the Red Planet and come back home, hopefully with their bodies and marriage in one piece after 501 days of no-escape togetherness in a cramped capsule.

Under the audacious but bare-bones plan, the spacecraft would blast off less than five years from now and pass within 160 kilometres of the Martian surface. The cost was not disclosed, but outsiders put it at more than $1 billion.

The team of space veterans behind the project hasn’t quite figured out the technical details of the rocket they will use or the capsule the husband-and-wife astronauts will live in during the 16-month voyage. But they know it will be an adventure not for the weak of body or heart.

“This is not going to be an easy mission,” chief technical officer and potential crew member Taber MacCallum said. “We called it the Lewis and Clark trip to Mars.”

The trying circumstances include: no showers, limits on toilet paper and clothing, drinking water made from the crew members’ recycled urine and sweat, and almost no privacy. But the flight also comes with never-before-seen views of Mars.

The private, not-for-profit project, called Inspiration Mars, will get initial money from NASA engineer-turned-multimillionaire investment consultant Dennis Tito, the first space tourist. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A rendering of a spacecraft that not-for-profit Inspiration Mars wants to send on a mission around the Red Planet and back — with a married couple aboard. INSPIRATION MARS

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A GATHERING OF EH?-LIST ACTORS

HE SAYS...
John Mazerolle
metronews.ca

This is the biggest week in the entertainment industry, what with the awards and the stars and the fashions and the national pride: Of course, I'm talking about the first-ever Canadian Screen Awards. What else could I mean?

Oh, right, that Oscars thing.

Hey, the Academy Awards are fine. It's one of the best opportunities to taunt people who are richer, handsomer and more talented than us, and then tsk-tsk their behaviour if they respond with anything but a sexy smile. Such fun.

But shouldn't we get behind Canada's own movies and TV shows just as much as we get behind Hollywood's? This year the Canadian Screen Awards bring the Geminis and Genies together, offering up the coveted Geminenie.

Land of the silver screen ...

I know, I know. You assume that because it's Canadian it must be staid and boring.

I know, I know. You assume that because it's Canadian it must be staid and boring. But I've seen an advanced screening of the awards and I can assure you that, while distinctly Canadian, it also has many familiar echoes of this year's Oscars:

Red carpet. I don't want to give away too much about the glitz and glamour, but David Cronenberg had everybody talking with a sheer blue outfit that left NOTHING to the imagination.

Comedy. The show's host, Martin Short, followed the edgy comedy of recent controversial hosts like Ricky Gervais and Seth MacFarlane, getting in sharp jabs about how he "doesn't care" for the new $20 bill — a sensitive topic (the bill has the Queen on it) that had the audience gasping. After several people called out "Too soon!" Short apologized but kept them smiling with a few digs at the Upper Canada rebellion of 1837, something everybody can appreciate.

Lifetime achievement. On the TV side of things, there was a long standing ovation for Zeddy the Zellers bear, recently retired after more than 25 years of television commercial performances that the Globe and Mail has called "stunning in their intertwined intimacy and ferocity." Kudos, Zeddy.

Big winners. I'm sworn to secrecy, but these were the nominees for Canadian film of the year:

- **Argo.** The story of a Toronto football team that wins the Canadian Football League trophy entirely because of American bravery and ingenuity.
- **Beasts of the Northern Mild.** A young girl must use all her optimism and imagination when nature flies out of whack and hits Toronto with seven centimetres of snow. With the city in chaos and her dad wailing in annoyance, she heads out in search of her mother, who is at a mysterious and distant shopping mall.
- **Clark.** Daniel Day-Lewis stars as the 16th prime minister of Canada in a country torn asunder by both access-to-information legislation and a gas tax. Will it survive? Day-Lewis has earned plaudits for his ability to capture Joe Clark's complete lack of charisma.
- **L'eh Misérables.** In this much-loved musical set against the backdrop of the 1995 referendum, French students from Quebec sing about their doomed fight against the federal government in such well-known numbers as On Our Own, One Vote More and Do You Hear the People Secede? Just like secession talk, it's loud, repetitive and goes on far too long.
- **Zero Dark Thirty in Newfoundland.** The thrilling story of a Canadian secret-ops team that kills its targets a half-hour earlier than other countries.

If you want to know who wins, you'll have to watch this Sunday.

Anything can happen, eh?

Exclusively online

- Read more of John Mazerolle at metronews.ca/voices

She's having a whale of a time

RICCARDO TINELLI

Marine photography

Sea dancing with friendly whales

The thought of swimming next to a 35-tonne humpback whale and its calf in the open ocean would fill anyone with dread, but for French navigator Maud Fontenoy, her mind was at ease.

This amazing image shows the 35-year-old marine activist and mother of one snorkelling beside the whales just off the island of Moorea in French Polynesia. METRO

Q and A

MAUD FONTENOY
French sailor and ocean conservation activist

Humpbacks are harmless

Fontenoy — the first woman to have crossed, by rowing, the North Atlantic Ocean and Pacific Ocean, and now a marine conservation activist for UNESCO — spoke to Metro about her swim.

Amazing photo of you with the whales. Were you not frightened of them?
I was afraid at first, but at the same time I knew straight away that these whales mean no harm and that I was in no danger.

I had to abandon my diving equipment on account of the bubbles produced by the breathing device. The whales are noise-sensitive and the bubbles would have disturbed them. Instead, I used a snorkelling mask and flippers.

How did this aid your efforts in marine conservation?
Each time we can show the beauty of nature, it's a way to make people aware of the similarity between humans and the ocean.

What everyday task can I do to help conserve our oceans?
You can choose to eat fish that aren't endangered. Also, you can help conserve water by using green detergents for your washing machines and avoiding overpackaged plastic items. METRO

Metropolitan Panel

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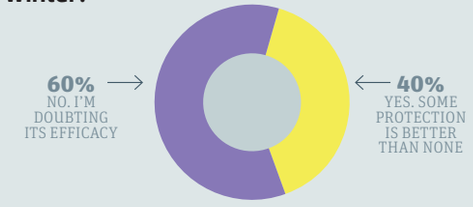
Will you be getting the flu shot next winter?



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@PunisherSOUND:
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@Hasban_A:
One of those days where you just don't want to leave your bed. Ive suffered through it and its not pretty. #Slush#WinterStorm#BadWeather

@Abeillee:
I think I almost passed out trying to shovel snow this evening.. #cantdeal #snow#winter

@BrittanyCodiene:
#Toronto looks like a huuuge slushy

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A group of Board Game Jammers work on a collaboration. Participants have 48 hours to create a unique board game — prior experience not required. CONTRIBUTED

Turn off the Xbox, roll the dice

Board Game Jam. Participants make their own creations in 48 hours as popularity of hobby games rise

BACKSTAGE PASS
Ian Gormely
scene@metronews.ca

The demotion of Monopoly's famed iron drew major headlines, but there's a lot more going on in the world of board games than swapping game pieces.

This weekend's Board Game Jam challenges competitors to conceive and construct their own game in just 48 hours. Now in its third year, it's just one piece of Toronto's growing board game subculture.

Adam Clare, one of the Jam's founders, credits Bloor West hub Snakes and Lattes as the catalyst for the burst of gaming activity.

"People assume that a board game is throw a dice, move and pick up a card," he says. "That's the most boring thing on the planet."

The café, which boasts more than 2,500 different games, has exposed a lot of people to European strategy games like hobby market juggernaut Settlers of Catan.

Samantha Larson, co-owner of similarly-minded Parkdale café Go Lounge, agrees.

"They have been integral in bringing gaming to the forefront."

Snakes' 2010 opening brought what was once a basement activity into the mainstream. One needs only to look at their long lines for a table to see the upswing in interest; the waits inspired Larson, a fan of classics like Scrabble, and her business partner to launch Go Lounge in November.

But the Jam and Euro-style gaming cafés are part of a general upswing in hobby game sales.

Meanwhile, traditional board game maker Hasbro failed to meet its fourth quarter sales expectations last year.

Both Clare, who teaches video game design at George Brown and Larson, who "cannot stand video games" pin the shift on the over-saturation of digital media.

"A board game," says Clare, "forces you to acknowledge the player across the table."

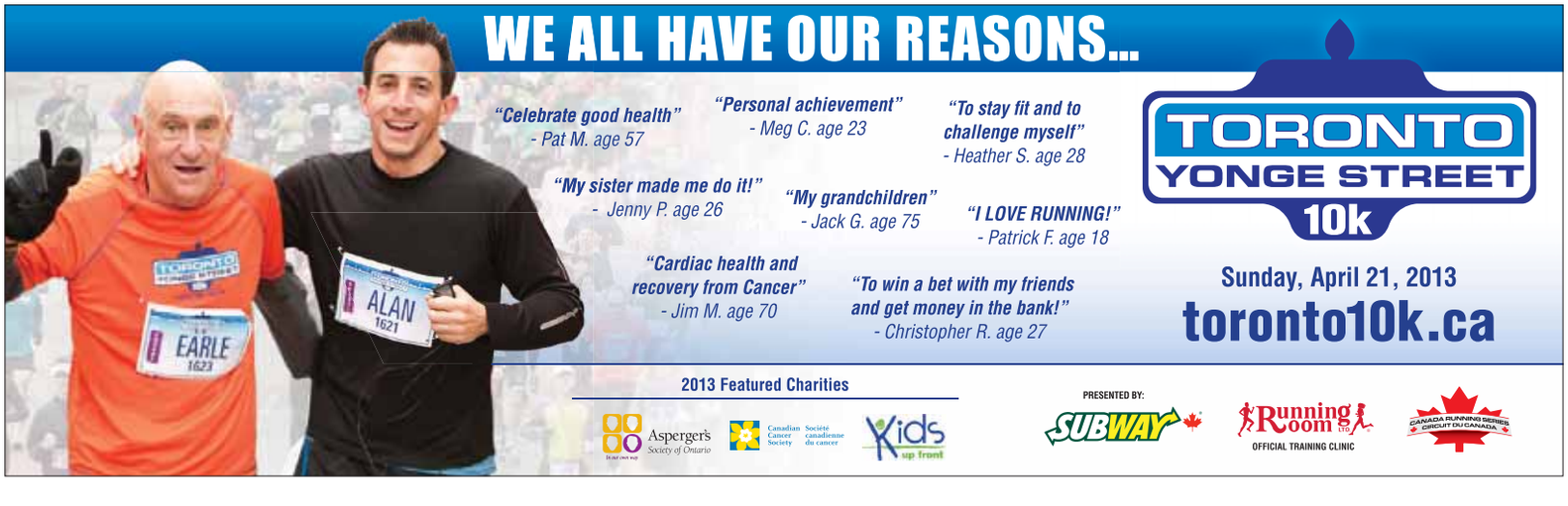
Board Game Jam runs March 2-3 at George Brown College, 230 Richmond St. East. Learn more at boardgamejam.com.

Cards for humanity

"A board game forces you to acknowledge the player across the table."
Adam Clare, co-founder, Board Game Jam

Test and refine

New at this year's Board Game Jam will be the inclusion of experts to counsel creators on how to bring their games to market. "There's no way someone will have a game ready for sale at the end of board game jam," cautions Clare. But the progress made can still be put to good use. The Jam has yet to produce a commercially available game although some are making steps in that direction. Above all else games needs to be fun, he says.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"My sister made me do it!" - Jenny P. age 26
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MacFarlane crossed the line, says caucus

Oscars. Family Guy creator's jokes condemned for 'reducing women to caricatures'

Academy Awards host Seth MacFarlane drew heat for his jokes on Sunday.
CHRIS PIZZELO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Two female California state lawmakers have condemned Oscar host Seth MacFarlane's comments during Sunday's awards presentation as degrading toward women and asked the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences to use better judgment in the future.

Assemblywoman Bonnie Lowenthal and Sen. Hannah-Beth Jackson, both Democrats who lead the Legislature's women's caucus, sent a letter to Academy president Hawk Koch on Tuesday, requesting that the organization disavow MacFarlane's behaviour.

They objected to the comedian's focus on the physical appearance of several actresses and quips about nude scenes.

"Furthermore, there was a disturbing theme about violence against women being acceptable and funny," the lawmakers wrote. "From topical jabs about domestic violence to singing about 'boobs' during a film's rape scene, Seth MacFarlane crossed the line from humour to misogyny."

Misogyny?

"...There was a disturbing theme about violence against women being acceptable and funny."

California state women's caucus leaders Bonnie Lowenthal and Sen. Hannah-Beth Jackson

MacFarlane's performance has drawn heat from critics since Sunday's show. Blogs compiled highlights of his punch lines, which included a song that referenced leading ladies who have bared their breasts on film, accompanied by reaction shots from those actresses.

He also made light of a domestic violence incident between rapper Chris Brown and singer Rihanna, and joked about the heavy accents of several Latina actresses.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Typing on rabbits: the Not Tilda Swinton story

Twitter files. Eli Yudin publishes the tweets from an online parody that was created in the actress's name

NATALIE SHURE
Metro NYC

Tilda Swinton's name was used for a parody Twitter account. Now it's a book. GETTY IMAGES

Launched to viral acclaim during last May's lunar eclipse, Twitter parody account @NotTildaSwinton has been reincarnated into a book. Self-published by comedian Eli Yudin and co-writer Carey O'Donnell, the complete collection of 187 bizarre imagined musings of actress and noted eccentric Tilda Swinton is available online. Some of the account's best Tweets? "A mission for you. Go outside, hold an animal to your breast. That is real warmth, not the glow of your screen. I typed this on a rabbit." Or: "Of course I have received splinters. I do not remove them. Small branches emerge from me and bear fruit in the shape of my face."

In an industry veering toward bite-sized content, Twitter's 140 character limit could be the logical endpoint of increasingly serialized work. So, after spending six hours laying out the book on InDesign, Yudin set up shop on Lulu Marketplace. At $11.06, the book was priced to break even. "We didn't want to seem like we were selling out," Yudin said. Not to mention the avoidance of potentially thorny issues with Swinton herself.

Not Tilda Swinton is one of thousands of self-published books for sale on Lulu Marketplace, which allows any author to sell their work online. Brian Matthews, an executive VP at Lulu's, argues that self-publishing has democratized publishing by removing barriers between readers and authors. "If an author wants to publish a book, we'll help them publish it as long as we don't have concerns related to the material," Matthews said. Readers can rely on Lulu Marketplace algorithms and reviews to help them pick their next read. Even so, it can be hard to determine quality. "The real issue is that in traditional publishing, you have an agent, editor and sales rep acting as a filter," said Cathy Langer, long-time buyer at Denver's independent bookstore, Tattered Cover. "Self-publishing eliminates these filters, and it can be hard to tell what's going to be good."

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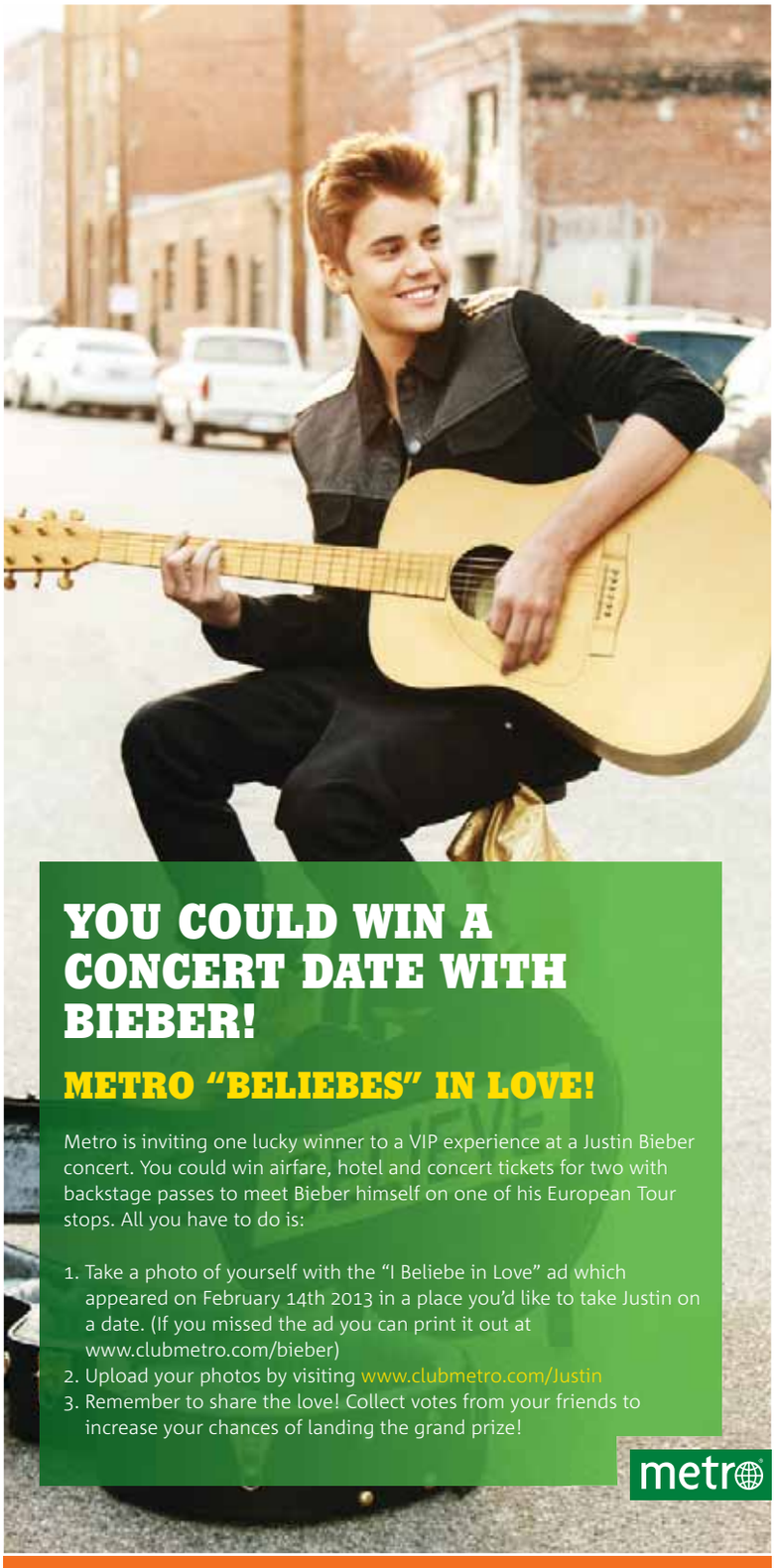

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Party at your own risk: 21 & Over actor takes a licking, keeps on ticking

Justin Chon. Star of raucous new comedy talks drinking games, gags involving the male anatomy

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

When actor Justin Chon sits down for our interview, he's coughing and looking a little worse for the wear. "I'm good," he insists. "I'm hungover, but I'm good." Promoting a film like 21 & Over — about his college student character's 21st birthday getting out of control, from the writers of The Hangover — can come with its own risks, apparently. But it's all part of the job.

Between being carried around, dropped out windows, Tasered and having a teddy bear glued to your crotch, you're taking the brunt of the abuse in this film.

Yeah. My performance is very much a physical comedic performance, and f—, man. I'm taking a lot of abuse. I mean, my head got hit on doors, I'm getting thrown everywhere. The worst was (the scene where) we were in a smart car, and I had to be (squashed onto) the f—ing dashboard.

To get in like that, I had to twist my neck around. And I'm claustrophobic, so that was the worst.

You also had to do a very painful penis gag, which is a staple for The Hangover guys.

Well, I'm grateful. At least they didn't give me a tiny pee-pee. They were like, "Rest assured, we made you well-endowed."
I looked at it and I was like, "Whoa. I don't know if my d— is that skin-tone, but cool."

How are you at drinking games in real life?

I've played them. But I'd much rather just drink, just get to the point. I don't need games. I guess it's just a way of getting people who don't want to drink to drink, but for me I've always been willing. So I'll just get myself drunk. It shouldn't be a punishment. It's a pleasure, it's part of being human. It's part of why we're alive.

Have you seen this movie with an audience yet?

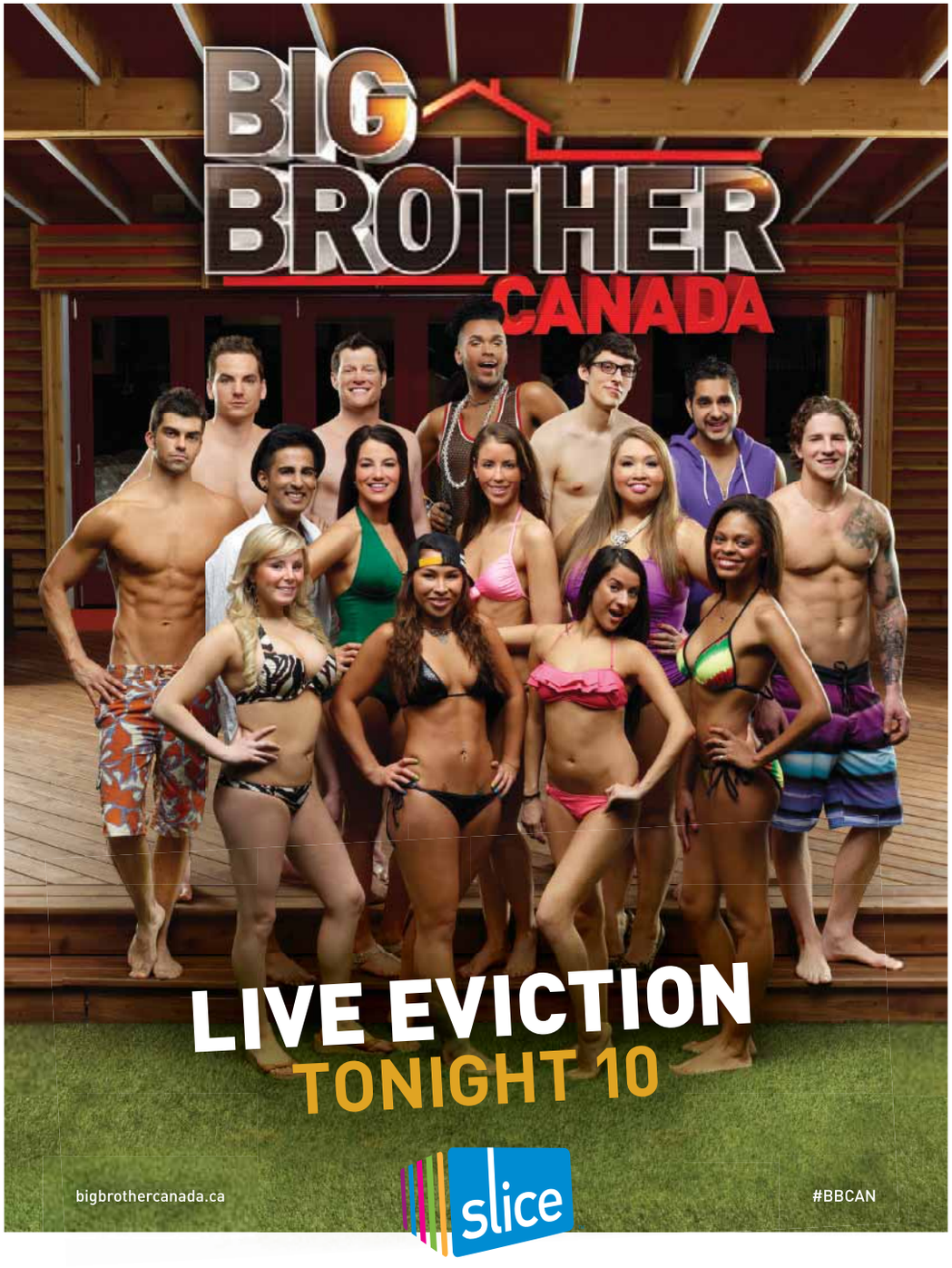
Yeah, I saw a screening with an audience, but I mean, people who go to test screenings, sometimes it's tough to tell. So I want to see it with an audience who paid money. Because if they're not laughing, we're f—ed.

Justin Chon (right) in 21 & Over. HANDOUT/JOHN JOHNSON

Suffering for his art

"My head got hit on doors, I'm getting thrown everywhere."

Justin Chon, actor in 21 & Over
explaining the physical demands of his role, which also involves being dropped out of windows and getting Tasered



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Carrie Fisher lands in hospital after strange cruise ship mishap

Star Wars star Carrie Fisher was reportedly hospitalized following a bizarre surprise appearance on a cruise ship, according to TMZ. "There was a medical incident related to Carrie Fisher's bipolar disorder," her rep says. "She went to hospital briefly to adjust her medication and is feeling much better now." Attendees at the show report that Fisher was meandering about on stage, rambling incoherently and singing off-key while her dog relieved itself next to her.

Carrie Fisher

Michael Sheen and Rachel McAdams ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Another one bites the dust

Rachel McAdams and Michael Sheen have reportedly called it quits after more than two years of dating, according to Us Weekly. McAdams and Sheen first met while filming Woody Allen's Midnight in Paris together, though they didn't begin dating until later. "Michael and I didn't get together while we were filming Midnight in Paris, which I feel strongly about not doing when I'm working," McAdams told Stella magazine last year. "We became quite good friends, which I think is a great way to start." There was no word as to what led to their breakup. McAdams previously dated Ryan Gosling for two years after co-starring with him in The Notebook.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Are Hemsworth and Cyrus done? Is Jones to blame?

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Hemsworth. If you're going to cheat on fiancée Miley Cyrus, don't do it at the Chateau Marmont. The Los Angeles hotel swarms daily with paparazzi and gossips; it's akin to taking out a billboard on I-95. Here's the dirt: Hemsworth (a.k.a. Mr. Miley To-Be) was seen getting "hot and heavy" with January Jones at a pre-Oscar party over the weekend, per Star magazine. "It looked like they had some hot chemistry," an eyewitness told the rag. "They were all over each other — and they even kissed!" For her part, Cyrus showed up at the Elton John AIDS Foundation's viewing party sans date on Sunday and "was all over the place" (code for wasted). So what does this mean? I'm not sure. All I know is that Hemsworth is 23, while Cyrus is 20. Sounds like appropriate behaviour for people barely out of their teens.

Twitter

@katyperry
If I were a cookie, I would be a thin mint girl scout cookie. FYI

@LilTunechi
Dam pit bull bro I thought u was kool.

@johncusack
Spell check hates me - always has

@RebelWilson
I got action onset with @channingtatum today. He is pure man steak luscious

Jennifer Lawrence

Is Jennifer Lawrence complaining?

There's no rest in sight for Oscar winner Jennifer Lawrence, who got right back in Hunger Games mode the day after nabbing a best actress statue. After filming the next film in the successful franchise, she's set to re-team with Silver Linings Playbook co-star Bradley Cooper and director David O. Russell in an FBI drama before putting on blue body paint for the next X-Men movie, which begins shooting in May. But all Lawrence wants to do is chill out. "I want to sit on my couch and drink and not change my pants for days," she tells E! News.

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While the start of the new season is still several weeks away, there's no reason you can't leap ahead on the calendar — at least fashionably speaking — by adding a touch of spring style to your winter wear. LouLou style editor Claude Laframboise says spring pieces are great for layering during winter, like wearing sleeveless or short-sleeved tops under jackets or cardigans. Here are five ways to dial up the warmth in your cold-weather looks.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Spring into winter

Pretty prints

It wouldn't be spring without a little flower power, and fashionable florals will once again be in full bloom — with a stylized update, of course. "What's newer is the bigger-scale floral print as opposed to the small dainty one," said Laframboise.

Many prints are also drawing inspiration from digital imagery, making them appear pixelated, reminiscent of an abstract print, he noted.

Torn between sporting stripes or polka dots? No need to choose when you can wear different patterns together.

Laframboise said the mixing of prints was an evolution of colour blocking, which involves teaming distinctive bright hues within one ensemble.

Individuals can get a jump start on spring now by trying their hand at combining seemingly contrasting prints — keeping in mind that complementary colours are key.

Black and white

The classic colour pairing made a splash on the spring runways and may be among the easiest trends to work into your wardrobe.

"It's not about wearing a white shirt and black pants," said Laframboise. "It's really about wearing a striped top with solid pants, or a crisp white shirt, but with a patterned skirt that would be black and white."

Laframboise said the pairing also acts as a good base for bright hues, like teaming a black-and-white striped top with another on-trend item like electric blue or hot pink jeans.

Expect to see many of the season's key prints like stripes, polka dots and floral prints steeped in black and white, he said.

Laframboise suggested opting for a heavier-weight striped jersey dress now, or perhaps sporting a silky, polka-dotted top under a jacket and wear it standalone in spring.

Bright and light

Vibrant hues that coloured last year's spring fashions continue to be a strong theme heading into the warmer months. But no need to feel stuck on selecting one "it" colour. There's a full spectrum of bold shades to choose from.

"Some colours stick out," said Laframboise. There's a lot of hot pink, hot orange, turquoise and electric blue. "But it's not one of those seasons where there's one colour you must get. It's all about colour as a whole."

An easy way to adopt the trend without sacrificing comfort is to consider opting for a brightly-coloured pair of jeans, said Laframboise.

Neon not your flavour? Laframboise said pastel hues — a tried and true springtime staple — are still in vogue, notably softer shades like pale blues and yellows.

Finishing touches

From a coral clutch to a checkered handbag, some of the hot colour and pattern trends in apparel are translating to accessories.

Mixed metal statement jewelry is emerging for spring, with everything from rhinestones to neon colours in the mix, said Laframboise.

Consider pairing your statement necklace with a T-shirt and jeans, or even overtop a collared shirt that has been fully buttoned up, he suggested.

"It's gone from being something dressy that you have at night to the other way around."

A model wears a bird print top ($36), skinny leg denim ($46), bracelets ($10) and a wedge sandal ($40) from Reitmans.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Riri. Rihanna brings her fashion flair to MAC with new makeup collections

Rihanna rocking a red lip. GETTY IMAGES

No matter how you feel about her controversial River Island collection, you can't deny the fact that Rihanna knows her stuff when it comes to beauty. The girl can rock a red lip.

So her plan to collaborate with MAC cosmetics on several make-up collections sounds like a winner to us.

"Whatever colour you want, it's like: 'Let's go to MAC.' I have always loved makeup, and I always said that if I do it, I want to do it with a credible brand," the singer told WWD.

The first product to hit stores will be a spin-off of MAC's best-selling lipstick, Ruby Woo, aptly called Riri Woo. "It's difficult to get a red lipstick that beats Ruby Woo, because it works on every skin tone," she said.

It'll be the first launch of Rihanna's four seasonal collections, known as Riri (Hearts) MAC, which will also include nails, false lashes, eye palettes and accessories.

Look for it online and at Rihanna concerts. It will hit stores later this year.

ROMINA MCGUINNESS/METRO

The Kit

Canadian street style

Spotted in: Vancouver

Kiks Chua,
Graphic Designer
Age: 25

What she's wearing
J. Crew coat, self-made scarf, Everlane tank, Mango skirt, American Apparel tights, Dr. Martens boots.

Her inspiration
"I'm a summer dresser so I wear summer pieces all year round under my coats with slight variation. It works!"

THE KIT PHOTOBLOGGER: M'C KENNETH LICON, LITTLEFASHIONISTO.COM

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@Jeanne_Beker: Getting a special achievement award at Cdn Screen Awards. If YOU had to thank someone for what you've achieved who would it be? Why?

@MamaGose: you have great style girl love you

@cedricgigoux: a lot of people, and you being one of them. I have been following you since my childhood on Fashion Television. Love you.

@HumberAlumni: Congrats on the Academy Achievement Award (for exceptional contributions to Canadian TV) #Fashion-Television

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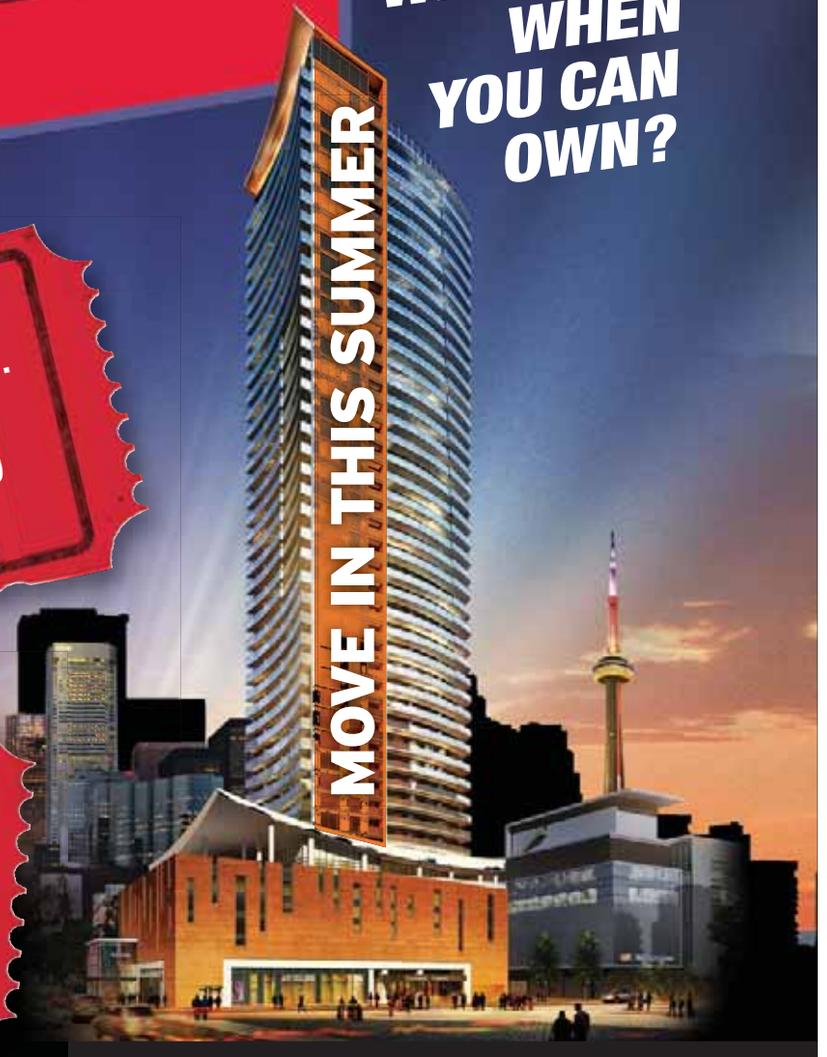

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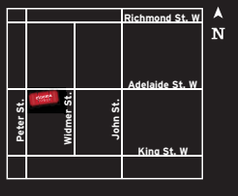

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Townhomes in the lap of luxury

The eight residences are modelled after the old-world styling of 19th-century townhomes. SUBMITTED

Meet the condo

- **What.** Eight on Bayview
- **Builder.** Wycliffe Homes
- **Location.** Bayview and York Mills
- **Website.** wycliffehomes.com
- **Sizes.** From 3,300 to more than 3,700 square feet
- **Pricing.** $1,659,900

The project overview

Live in the lap of luxury with Wycliffe's exquisite townhomes on prestigious Bayview Avenue. This coveted address is a fitting setting for the eight new residences, which are modelled after the old-world styling of 19th-century townhomes.

Location and transit

Located in the desirable Bayview Avenue neighbourhood just south of York Mills Road. The Bayview TTC bus service is right outside your door. A short drive to Highway 401 gets you to where you're going. Be in the downtown core within a half hour.

In the neighbourhood

Residents can walk to the York Mills shopping centre. Bayview Village and the Shops at Don Mills are a short drive away. Minutes away are The Granite Club, Rosedale Golf Club, Crescent School, Crestwood Preparatory College and Sunnybrook Hospital.

Building amenities

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Rooftop Surfing

A look at development charges

BRYAN TUCKEY
President and CEO of the Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD) can be found at twitter.com/bildgta), (facebook.com/bildgta) and bildblogs.ca.

Those following industry news have likely heard the term "development charges" mentioned quite often lately, whether in your local newspaper on the radio or on various blogs. I thought I would take this opportunity to explore this complex, yet very important topic and add a bit of clarity to the conversation.

For those who are unfamiliar with the term, development charges are fees paid by developers of new communities and developments as a way of helping to pay for new growth-related costs. They are imposed by local and regional municipalities, as well as GO Transit and education boards.

The revenue derived from these fees goes toward the construction of new sewer and road systems to accommodate potential development in the area. It's also put toward soft services like building municipal recreation centres and libraries. Our industry estimates that more than $1 billion was paid in development charges across the GTA in 2012 alone.

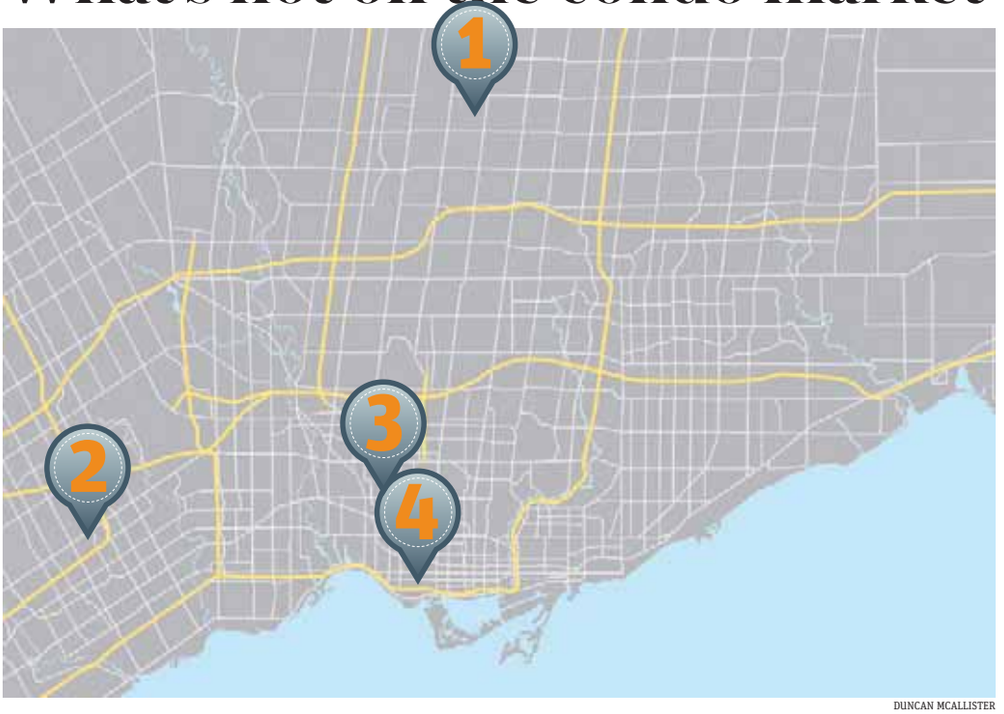
The Development Charges Act enables the council of a municipality to enact a development charge by-law for financing costs resulting from new growth. The act sets out criteria to calculate the rates, which are based on a study outlining the estimated amount, type and location of a proposed development and how it will affect municipal services. Building permits are issued after receipt of the development charge payment.

While these rates vary across municipalities, the combination of both municipal and regional development charges can add up to a considerable portion of the cost of building a new home. While we understand that growth must pay for growth, our industry has expressed the need for these fees to remain reasonable, fair and accountable to new home purchasers in the GTA, as they contribute to the final selling price of a home.

A significant part of BILD's role as the voice of the industry is to work with municipalities in an effort to keep these additional fees as low as possible. Together we review the municipal costs and ensure that the fees are put toward funding new growth as opposed to existing infrastructure. Our goal is to make the homes we build as affordable as possible, and this is just one of the ways we do it.

Our members are proud to build quality, complete communities throughout the GTA that rival some of the best in the world.

What's hot on the condo market



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1. Richmond Hill

Grand Opening: Gates of Humber Ridge townhomes. Bathurst Street, north of King Rd., Richmond Hill, Mar. 2 from 12 to 5 p.m.

CONTACT: CALL 289-234-1274 OR VISIT CASTLEMOUNTHOMES.COM

2. Mississauga

Open House: Mississauga condo. Corner unit, two beds, two baths. 220 Forum Dr., March 2 from 2 to 4 p.m.

CONTACT: CALL 905-828-1122

3. Earlscourt

Grand Opening: Caledonia Towns on the Park. New model townhome. Presentation centre at 90 Caledonia Park Rd., Mar. 2 from 12 to 5 p.m.

CONTACT: CALL 647-255-3465 OR VISIT CALEDONIATOWNS@MINTO.COM

4. King West

Grand Opening: Five new model suites, King West condos at Liberty Village, immediate occupancy. Sales centre at 50 Lynn Williams St.

CONTACT: CALL 647-341-1731 OR VISIT PUREPLAZA.COM

Flip your condo with style

Staging. Putting your home on the market? Get your condo ready for resale with some designer touches

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

We all know the rules when prepping your home for resale: de-clutter, remove personal items and clean. However there are more things you can do to make your home the talk of your building.

Now, you can always hire a home stager (usually recommended from the selling agent) to help, but as your trusted decorator expert, I'll share my own tricks of the trade to get your place appealing to a new buyer.

Buy accessories that compliment the space you are selling, and not what you think is trendy at the moment.

Putting your decor trademark on a space is not going to make buyers see the potential of owning it themselves.

For instance, if you live in a modern condo with concrete ceilings and floor-to-ceiling windows, choose a few strong industrial accents to play up those features: tall clear glass vases, a factory cart coffee table and vintage metal cappuccino maker will help give off that urban vice.

As harsh as this may be, paint away your personality with an updated neutral wall colour. Choose a colour that works with your floor and not necessarily your existing furniture in case you've already moved out and a potential buyer only has the walls and floors to see.

The right colour will ensure that without furnishings the space still looks co-ordinated and tied together. Trick: choose a paint colour that is two shades lighter than the colouring in the floors.

This will make the entire space visually flow, feel bigger and more tied together. Always sway toward cooler tones over warmer ones. Cool tones reflect more light and are less claustrophobic.

In an empty, open-concept space, use area carpets to define living areas. This way potential buyers can imagine a living, dining and office working for them in such an open area.

Choose your view to help with the sell. Install woven scrim shades to hide a bad view yet let light into the room. If you have a great city view then keep the shades up to show it off. Any window in a bathroom or bedroom should offer a privacy shade.

Lower your artwork. Buyers want spaces with high ceilings so by lowering your artwork the ceilings look taller. Simply lower everything two inches — ideally, the middle of your artwork should be 66 inches off the floor.

This is a great trick in condos and lower-level spaces that might only have standard height ceilings.

A new sink, faucet and trend-setting laminate countertop can take 10 years off the age of your kitchen. A chrome restaurant-inspired faucet and dark grey soapstone/concrete coloured counters are always good choices in urban spaces.

Don't invest in having a kitchen renovated for resale; offer the cost of a kitchen reno to reflect in the selling price and let the new homeowner customize the kitchen of their dreams.

Choose the largest closet and pimp it out. A front hall or main bedroom closet fitted with dark wood shelving inserts and fancy rods will always impress a potential buyer.

Install a battery-operated motion light inside the closet. Not only will your closet impress a potential buyer but it will make the closet feel organized and bright.

Don't leave a boot tray or a Remove Shoes sign at the front door. Once a potential buyer enters they should feel as if they already own it.

Placing personal messages and signs around make the buyer feel that you still have a presence in the space.

One trendy countertop appliance can set the tone for a fabulous lifestyle to potential buyers. Nespresso's Maestria Creama C Five Hundred Crema, $550, thebay.com.

Brighten up a dark closet interior or kitchen counter with an LED stick-up motion light. Sylvania Dot It Golden Dragon Motion Light, $15, homedepot.ca.

A modern faucet teamed with a trend-setting laminate counter top are inexpensive ways to update a kitchen. Ikea's Budskar Kitchen Faucet, $149, ikea.ca.

Add simple, woven shades to offer privacy or help diffuse an undesirable view without sacrificing natural light. Alustra Screen Shades, hunterdouglas.ca.

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*Extras noted above are as per plan and as specified by Vendor. Some restrictions may apply. E.&O.E. February 2013. 20677

Can you literally see the smell? Could be a problem. ISTOCK IMAGES

Help! It smells in here!

I don't know what to do with the odours in shoes, suitcases and sporting equipment bags. They're driving me crazy. Any ideas or suggestions?

CHARLES THE BUTLER
askcharlesthebutler@metronews.ca
For more, visit charlesmacpherson.com

Well I do understand that odours can be disruptive and annoying, so let's look at your list, starting with shoes. If it is a running shoe, then a small sprinkle of baking soda in each shoe will help absorb the odour caused by moisture. Drying antistatic sheets will also help.

But take a good look at the shoes. Running shoes in particular do have a life span and once they are done they are done. Suitcases are always great with a dryer antistatic sheet, but after a long trip, always leave the suitcase open for a day or two to fully air it out.

And finally sports equipment bags also need to be aired out regularly and the sports equipment needs to be washed after each and every use.

I know that sounds like a lot of work, but this is really important to keep the bacteria level down, which reduces odour and avoids skin irritations.

But remember, it's essential that you deal with the odour source and get rid of it, not just mask it with fake perfume smells.

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Condo roundup: authentic lofts a rare find

Trends. Metro takes a look at some hot and cool downtown living spaces: what they asked for, what they got, in four neighbourhoods

CONDO TRENDS
Duncan McAllister
life@metronews.ca

Get them while they're hot

Authentic "hard" loft spaces are difficult to find in Toronto, says Heikki Walden who runs the high-performance sales team of loft specialists at the Camber Walden Group. He says that loft conversions represent a mere five per cent of the total number of listings.

"So for example right now, we have 4,000 condo units for sale in Toronto and 200 of those are lofts."

Walden's team just sold a loft on 27 Brock Ave., right on the edge of West Queen West.

The two-bedroom unit featured exposed brick, sand blasted wood, large south-facing windows and a private rooftop terrace. It was listed at $499,000 and sold for $81,000 over asking price.

The little bungalow that could

While not a condo per se, here's a prime example of Toronto's red hot housing market. A small bungalow in Leslieville, just north of Queen Street, held an open house in January.

"After weeks of negative media reports on the state of the real estate market, we were cautious about how to price the home and what sort of reaction to expect so early into the new year," says Cameron Weir of Keller Williams Advantage Realty. "We had nearly 300 people come through our open house."

The owners of the 16,000 square foot, single-storey house that listed for $539,000, received eight offers and sold for $100,000 over asking price.

An artful sale

Weir's team also recently sold a luxury suite at the X Condos on 110 Charles St. E., with an artful twist.

"After several months on the market, the listing agents needed to get creative to combat sluggish sales for million dollar condos," he said. They decided to partner up with a local art gallery to display unique and ultra-modern art that tied in beautifully with the tone of the building.

The 1,660 square foot corner suite was originally listed at $1,049,000 and then reduced to $999,000. Dozens of people came out and braved the bone-chilling cold, including many curious buyers. The day after the art gallery event, the suite finally sold for $899,000.

Life at the (Tip) Top

Terry Szwec is a salesperson with Royal LePage Real Estate Services.

Lately he's finding more focused interest in high-end, luxury condo properties. He's listed the ultimate penthouse: a 2,000 square foot suite atop the Tip Top lofts at 637 Lake Shore Blvd., asking $1,249,000.

They've received two offers so far, but haven't closed yet. Tip Top is an architectural gem; one of the finest examples of authentic art deco in the city. The conversion and restoration was performed on the old Tip Top Tailors warehouse on the Lake Shore.

With all the construction in Toronto, Szwec says it's rare to find a "forever view". The two-storey, two bedroom plus den suite boasts open concept rooms, 12-foot ceilings, full height windows and unobstructed city and lake views.

This 1,660 square foot corner suite at X Condos on 110 Charles St. E., has two bedrooms plus den and sold for $899,000.
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Final tally discrepancy

We just sold our house and purchased a smaller condo as we are downsizing. We walked through the math with our lawyer and the numbers don't seem to add up. We had a budget and showed this to our lawyer. She responded with two trust ledgers and went step by step through the figures. They seem to add up, but at the end of the day, we are several thousand dollars short of where we thought we would be. Do you have any insight into this?

LEGAL MATTERS
Jeffrey Cowan
home@metronews.ca

There are a couple of really basic issues which could explain the discrepancy you are experiencing.

The first is that vendors often do not take into account the monies that are held in trust by their realtor which are offset by the realtor's commission. If there is a large deposit being held by the broker which exceeds the sale commission, then you are entitled to a rebate of the monies being held in trust that are larger than the commission payable. This is often not considered by the vendor of a property and is outside the control of your lawyer.

Secondly, there are costs that you may not have considered such as Land Transfer Tax (on your purchase), Title Insurance and other disbursements which can add up to increased costs that you may not have budgeted for.

It is highly advisable that when you engage your lawyer, you walk through the costs so you are not taken by surprise when there isn't enough money to buy that couch for your new living room.

Follow Jeff Cowan on Twitter @Cowan_Law or on the website cowanlaw.ca

A complete meal contained in one hearty bowl of soup

Meatball and Pasta Soup

This recipe serves six. RYAN SZULC, FROM ROSE REISMAN'S FAMILY FAVORITES (WHITECAP BOOKS)

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rosereisman.com

This is a great soup for the family. It's a complete meal in a bowl. Try using ground chicken, turkey or pork instead of beef. Remember to add an extra tablespoon of bread crumbs if you're using chicken or turkey.

1. Meatballs: combine ground beef, bread crumbs, barbecue sauce, egg, garlic, basil and 2 tbsp of the Parmesan cheese. Form into 1-inch meatballs (you should have enough for about 24 meatballs). Lightly coat nonstick skillet with cooking spray and set over medium heat. Cook the meatballs for about 5 minutes, turning occasionally or until they are browned on all sides. Set aside.

2. To make the soup, lightly coat a large, nonstick pot with cooking spray. Add the oil and set over medium heat. Add the onion and garlic and sauté for 5 minutes or until just softened and browned. Stir in the green pepper and carrots and cook for 3 minutes. Stir in the stock, tomato sauce, tomato paste, chili powder and browned meatballs. Bring to a boil, and then reduce the heat to low and simmer, covered, for 15 minutes.

3. Stir in the pasta and simmer for 5 minutes or until the pasta is tender. Serve the soup in bowls, and garnish with remaining 1/4 cup Parmesan cheese. **ROSE REISMAN'S FAMILY FAVORITES (WHITECAP BOOKS) BY ROSE REISMAN**

Ingredients

Meatballs
- 6 oz lean ground beef
- 3 tbsp seasoned dry bread crumbs
- 2 tbsp barbecue sauce
- 1 egg
- 1 tsp finely chopped garlic
- 1/2 tsp dried basil
- 2 tbsp Parmesan cheese

Soup
- 2 tsp vegetable oil
- 1 cup chopped onion
- 1 1/2 tsp finely chopped garlic
- 1/2 cup chopped green bell pepper
- 1/2 cup chopped carrots
- 3 1/2 cups beef (or chicken) stock
- 2 cups tomato pasta sauce
- 2 tbsp tomato paste
- 1 tsp chili powder
- 1 cup egg noodle pasta
- 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese

For your phone

Relish Soups, Stews & Chilis Recipe Collection (iPad; $1.99)

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Kris Abel
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Feeling frozen? A hot bowl is a good remedy. Relish Magazine's collection of soups, stews and chilis nourishes all tastes. Imagine Apple Cider Stew, Wild Rice Chowder or Heirloom Bean Chili.

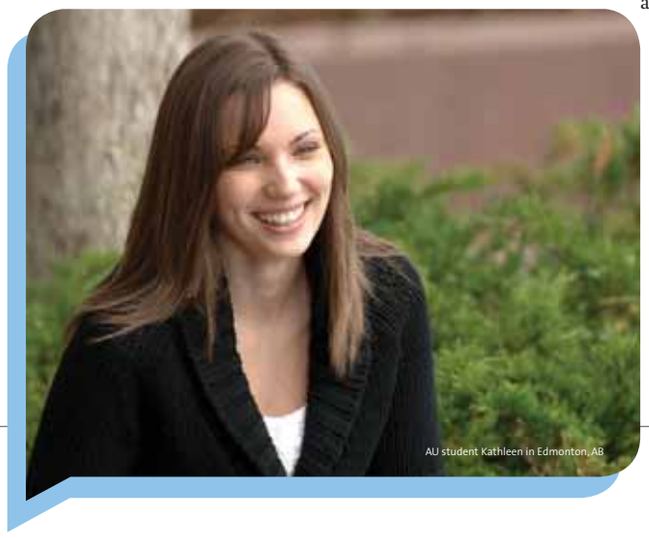
All the noodle and none of those pesky carbs and fat

The conventional wisdom of cutting carbs and calories generally has meant that pasta is a no-go.

But recently, a new noodle has challenged that thinking, giving dieters a fresh — albeit slightly different — way to have their pasta.

Shirataki noodles have attracted the attention of so many dieters of late. Their appeal? No carbs, no fat and almost no calories.

These slightly chewy noodles are made from a water-soluble fibre that comes from a type of sweet potato. Though they once were found only in Asian markets, they have begun showing up in most large supermarkets.



AU student Kathleen in Edmonton, AB

This chicken noodle soup recipe serves six. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

1. In Dutch oven over medium heat, bring broth to boil. Add carrots, celery, ginger and garlic. Cook, uncovered, until veggies are tender, 8 minutes.

2. Add shirataki and chicken. Simmer until noodles are just hot, 3 minutes. Stir in dill and lemon juice. Season with salt and pepper. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Ingredients

- 10 cups reduced-sodium chicken broth
- 2 cups shredded carrots
- 1 large stalk celery, coarsely chopped
- 3 tbsp minced fresh ginger
- 2 tbsp minced garlic
- Three 8-oz packages fettucine-style shirataki noodles, drained and well rinsed
- 4 cups shredded cooked skinless chicken breast
- 3 tbsp chopped fresh dill
- 1 tbsp lemon juice
- Salt and ground black pepper

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SPORTS 4

Habs bare teeth in third period vs. Leafs

NHL. Red-hot Canadiens get payback in Toronto for blowout loss earlier this month at Bell Centre

On Wednesday

Canadiens	Leafs
5	2

Brendan Gallagher, Max Pacioretty and Brian Gionta scored third-period goals to earn the Montreal Canadiens an impressive 5-2 win over the Toronto Maple Leafs on Wednesday night.

Gallagher scored his sixth of the season at 9:08 of the third to break a 2-2 tie before Pacioretty cemented the win with his sixth of 2013 and second of the game at 14:26. Gionta scored into the empty net at 17:34.

The victory was sweet redemption for Montreal (13-4-3), which suffered an embarrassing 6-0 home loss to Toronto on Feb. 9.

Since then, the streaking Canadiens have gone 7-0-2 and dominated the Leafs, outshooting the hosts 40-23 before a season-high Air Canada Centre gathering of 19,625.

The loss tarnished an outstanding performance by Toronto goaltender Ben Scrivens. The lanky Albertan, making his eighth straight start, kept the Leafs in the game despite being badly outplayed after getting wins the two previous meetings.

There was bad blood between the two longtime rivals, stemming from their last meeting in Montreal where an alleged biting incident involving Mikhail Grabovski and Pacioretty took place. And while Montreal and Toronto played a physical game Wednesday night, they stuck to hockey with no major incidents this time.

Defenceman Alexei Emelin had the other goal for Montreal.

Frazer McLaren and Clarke MacArthur scored for Toronto (12-9-0), which had won three straight at home.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Montreal's Ryan White knocks Leafs enforcer Colton Orr into the Air Canada Centre glass on Wednesday night. LUCAS OLENIUK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Raptors centre Jonas Valanciunas rises to the basket against Tyler Zeller on Wednesday in Cleveland. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA. Raptors fail to capitalize on Irving-less Cavaliers in Cleveland

Rookie Dion Waiters scored 23 points, Shaun Livingston added 15 and the Cleveland Cavaliers overcame a horrendous start, while playing without injured all-star Kyrie Irving for the second straight game, to beat the Toronto Raptors 103-92 on Wednesday night.

The Cavs made only one of their first 15 shots, but recovered and finished February at 7-5, their first winning month since March 2010, when LeBron James was still around.

On Wednesday

Cavaliers	Raptors
103	92

Wayne Ellington added 13 points and Luke Walton had seven rebounds and seven assists for the Cavs, who closed with a 10-2 run.

DeMar DeRozan scored 34 and Rudy Gay had 24 for the Raptors. Toronto was within 93-90 when Waiters hit a 15-foot jumper with 1:43 left.

Irving sat out with a hyperextended right knee, an injury he sustained in practice. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLS

Toronto FC brings in Ephraim from QPR

Toronto FC signed winger Hogan Ephraim on loan from Queens Park Rangers on Wednesday, a day after club president Kevin Payne promised "the cavalry is coming."

"We needed to bring some quality in," Toronto head coach Ryan Nelsen said. "Hogan hopefully will be one of a few who will be coming in."

The team, which opens the season Saturday in Vancouver, also acquired a first-round pick in the 2014 supplemental draft from Chicago for forward Quincy Amarikwa as its off-season makeover continues. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hogan Ephraim with the Queens Park Rangers last July GETTY IMAGES FILE

AHL

Marlies claw out win over Amerks

Ryan Hamilton scored both goals, including the game-winner on a penalty shot to lead the Toronto Marlies to a 2-1 victory over the Rochester Americans in American Hockey League action on Wednesday.

Goalie Drew MacIntyre stopped 27 of 28 shots for the Marlies (28-18-6), who won their second straight and moved into first place in the North Division.

Mark Mancari replied for the Amerks (27-22-3), who have lost four straight and are clinging to the eighth playoff spot in the West. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Passion still burning inside seasoned skip

Curling. Four-time Brier champ Martin looks to win Canadian title in his hometown

Kevin Martin has won everything there is to win in curling, several times over in some cases.

The skip from Edmonton has Olympic gold and silver medals, four Canadian championships and a world championship on his resumé, plus 17 Grand Slam victories on the World Curling Tour.

So what drives him in the sport now?

"I still really enjoy a good tough game, win or lose," said Martin, 46. "It's tough in games that don't mean a lot, but the big ones ... those are the games that are fun for me still.

"As long as I really enjoy it, deep down really can't wait to play, I'll play. Once you don't feel like that, your days are done. I haven't got that yet."

Kevin Martin celebrates winning the gold medal in men's curling at the Winter Olympics in Vancouver on Feb. 27, 2010. The Edmonton skip has his sights set on winning the Brier in his hometown. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

The 2013 Tim Hortons Brier opens Saturday at Rexall Place. Martin's team out of Edmonton's Saville Centre represents the host province.

What's new for Martin is the chance to win a Canadian title in his hometown, having never before played a Brier in Edmonton.

He did win the Olympic trials at Rexall Place in 2009 for the right to represent Canada at the 2010 Olympic Winter Games in Vancouver and Whistler, B.C.

Martin, third John Morris, second Marc Kennedy and lead Ben Hebert won gold in Vancouver. They'll be the darlings of this Brier as both the host team and the reigning Olympic champions.

Martin can also become the first skip to win five Canadian titles, surpassing Saskatchewan's Ernie Richardson and fellow Albertan Randy Ferbey at four.

Two of Martin's four previous Brier titles were won in Alberta, but both in Calgary.

"It's Canada's biggest party if the Grey Cup's not," said Martin.

Alberta's Martin, defending champion Glenn Howard of Ontario and three-time winner Jeff Stoughton of Manitoba are the headliners of the 12-team field.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

What's at stake?

The winner of the Brier final on March 10 will represent Canada at the Ford Men's World Championship in Victoria from March 30 to April 7.

Alex Rodriguez JONATHAN DANIEL/GETTY IMAGES FILE

MLB. A-Rod's charity donated 1% of gains: Report

New York Yankees superstar Alex Rodriguez gave away only one per cent of proceeds raised in the first year of his non-profit charity, the A-Rod Family Foundation, the Boston Globe reports.

According to the report, Rodriguez raised $403,862 US in 2006, but donated only $5,090 to charitable causes.

The published report says that the foundation operated by Rodriguez donated $5,000 to Jay-Z's Shawn Carter Scholarship Fund and $90 to a Little League baseball club in Miami.

A year later, in 2007, the Internal Revenue Service stripped the A-Rod Family Foundation of its tax-exempt status after it failed to submit the proper paperwork, the report said.

Boston reporter Callum Borchers noted that non-profit experts recommend foundations devote 65 to 75 per cent of every dollar directly to the stated mission.

The Globe reviewed more than 150 IRS filings in the U.S. by 50 non-profits operated by professional athletes and found that many highly paid athletes fail to meet the threshold of donating up to 75 per cent of every dollar directly to their mission. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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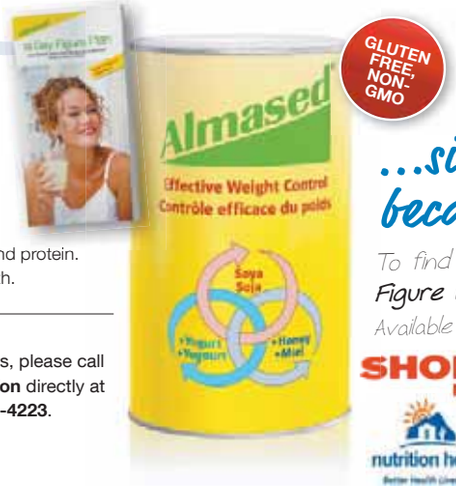

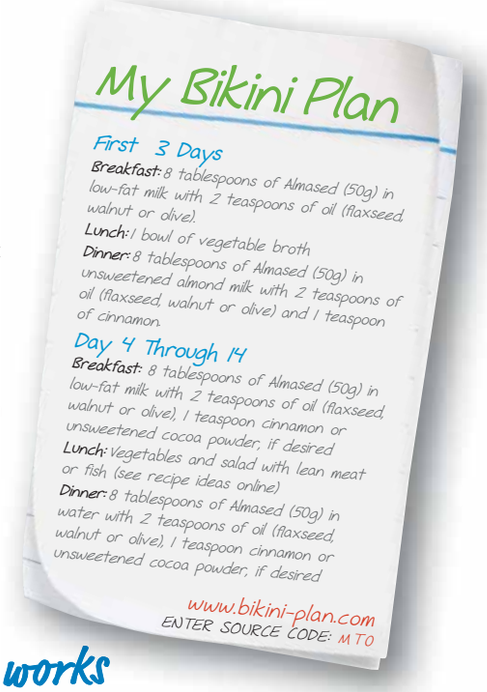
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Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Both the good and the bad points of your personality will stand out in sharp relief today. There is no reason at all why you should disguise your true nature. Others only disapprove because they are jealous.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Make a special effort to think before you act today, as you could easily go over the top in some way. Even the most cautious of bulls could say or do things that might damage their reputation, so be careful.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Friends and colleagues will do the opposite of what you ask of them today. Now that you know that you know how to get 'round them, don't you? Ask them to do the complete reverse of what it is you want!

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
However tough things may get over the next 24 hours, you must not compromise your principles or show signs of weakness. You may not be in a position of strength but you do possess formidable strength of character.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
If you have moments of self-doubt today don't just ignore them and plow ahead regardless. Listen to what your instincts are trying to tell you and, just this once, be a bit more cautious in your actions.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
There may be nothing you cannot do if you put your mind to it but it will pay you to be a bit more selective in your goals. Some things come naturally to you and those are the things you should focus on.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Yes, the truth hurts, but it will hurt even more if you try to avoid it. That applies especially to your career where some kind of setback is likely to annoy you. But what is it trying to teach you?

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Your life has become far too complicated and you must find ways to simplify your everyday activities. Forget about all those big ideas swimming around inside your head — get serious about details.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You may be impulsive by nature but the planets warn if you overdo it between now and the weekend you will need to give yourself a lot of time to recover — time you cannot really afford to waste.

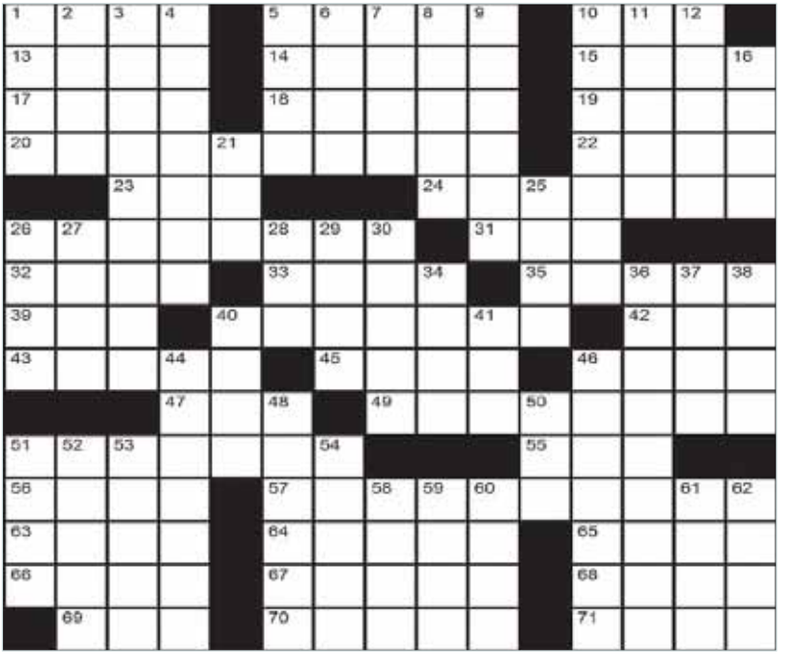
♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
What you learn about other people is useful. What you learn about yourself is priceless. Something will happen today that gives you an insight into the way your subconscious works — an insight that leads to greater happiness.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Many things are changing and you may not be entirely happy about it. But deep down you know it's time to move on and if you can't make the move yourself fate will make it for you. Your move!

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Venus, planet of personal love, links with Neptune, planet of universal love, in your sign today, making this the ideal time to reach out and change people's lives. Use your gift of compassion. SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

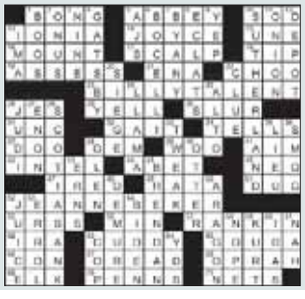
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Lion's share
5. Belonging to Sweden's biggest band
10. New Zealand parrot
13. Sacred Buddhist peak
14. Hen's home
15. "This is __ _ big mistake!"
17. Cartooning, for short
18. __ Max ($50 million top prize draw)
19. Shakespearean word
20. Reality series now with a Canadian version on Slice: 2 wds.
22. __-and-haws
23. Bird's beak
24. Toronto's big airport
26. Boardroom events
31. Canada __ (Brand of ginger ale)
32. Kind of musical work
33. Macbeth's burial place
35. Cain's biblical son
39. Always, to a poet
40. Western province
42. Gladiator's 7
43. Bird beds
45. "__ la Douce" (1963)
46. Photog's originals, for short
47. _ _ _ Speedwagon
49. Colleen of "Anne of Green Gables"
51. "Wind __ My Wings" by Midler
55. And: German
56. __. donor (Unknown benefactor)
57. Assume control: 2 wds.
63. "Oops!... _ __ It Again" by Britney Spears
64. __ by the rules
65. Played-with-a-bow instrument
66. "How to __ a Guy in 10 Days" (2003)
67. Tricked
68. Eye part
69. Nourished
70. Make amends
71. Water bird

Down
1. Biblical land where Moses was buried
2. Prefix to 'potent' (All-powerful)
3. Canadian History: Land lords of New France
4. Donut-middle treats
5. Folkie Mr. Guthrie
6. Winter footwear, just one
7. The pair
8. Take _ __ (Move foreward)
9. Stashed
10. Movie director Ms. Bigelow
11. "The Princess Bride" (1987) star, Cary __
12. Texas landmark to 'remember', The __
16. Formal org.
21. Baseball stat.
25. Expanse
26. Big name in faucets
27. Sword sort
28. Goose egg
29. Desert in Asia
30. Ventriloquy puppet of classic TV, Mortimer __
34. Weapon: French
36. The 'O' of BTO
37. Slang-style smokes
38. School subj.
40. On the ocean
41. Shooting marble
44. Was a hot topic on Twitter
46. Canadian territory since 1999
48. Federal government's centre
50. "Er, what?"
51. Release-from-the-slammer money
52. Arnold Schwarzenegger movie, "__ Days" (1999): 2 wds.
53. Racket
54. Custom
58. Metric weight, for short
59. Biblical garden
60. Give up
61. Movie-__
62. Flair

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

		7				5		
	9		1		7		6	
2	3						7	9
		3	4		2	7		
4								8
		1	6		9	4		
3	1						5	7
	7		9		5		1	
		8				2		

Yesterday's Sudoku

4	7	6	8	9	2	3	5	1
5	9	2	3	7	1	6	8	4
1	3	8	5	4	6	9	7	2
9	8	7	1	3	4	2	6	5
6	4	5	9	2	7	8	1	3
2	1	3	6	8	5	7	4	9
8	6	1	2	5	9	4	3	7
3	2	4	7	1	8	5	9	6
7	5	9	4	6	3	1	2	8

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